Daily Report

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Lebanon

Damascus radio reported that two rounds of tripartite talks aimed at halting the Hizballah-Amal conflict were held in the Syrian capital 23 January. The first meeting featured Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri; the second meeting was attended by Al-Shar', Velayati, and a team of Hizballah leaders.

Reporting on Velayati's talks with Amal and Hizballah officials, IRNA stated that Velayati emphasized the need for an immediate end to the "fratricide" and for a negotiated settlement of the dispute. An Iranian spokesman subsequently stressed that Iran and Syria are in "complete agreement" on the issue, IRNA noted, and he said they hope to settle the dispute in a meeting attended by both Amal and Hizballah representatives.

In remarks cited by Beirut radio after his talks with Syrian and Iranian officials, Nabih Birri affirmed Amal's willingness to achieve a security accord with Hizballah, but he stressed reconciliation is contingent on two conditions: Hizballah must hand over the killers of three Amal officials and those responsible for the recent "massacre" in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

In Lebanon, clashes resumed between Hizballah and Amal gunmen in Iqlim al-Tuffah, according to Beirut radio and other local stations. Both sides blamed each other for the resumption of hostilities.

Israel

IDF soldiers killed one Arab and wounded at least three others during further clashes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to Jerusalem and IDF radio reports. Curfews were imposed in most Gaza Strip refugee camps in response to a general strike call for 24 January. A Tulkarm resident has been arrested on charges of recruiting local youths for basic weapons training at a "national Palestinian army training base" in the territories, Jerusalem radio noted.

In remarks broadcast by the radio, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens affirmed that if Israel wants to address the Palestinian problem, it must negotiate with Jordan. Israel cannot "normalize" the Mideast situation until it has normalized its relationship with Jordan, he added.

PLO and the United States

MENA cited a report by Cairo's AL-JUMHURIYAH listing a number of conditions which the United States has allegedly laid down for the PLO's participation in the peace process. Citing a source close to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, the paper said the conditions are: exclusion of PLO officials viewed as terrorists, including PLF leader Muhammad 'Abbas; abolition of Force 17; selection of moderate Palestinians for the provisional government; and establishment of close relations with Jordan.

In a statement carried by Kuwait's AL-ANBA', PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani called on the United States to hold a second official meeting with the PLO as soon as possible.

In another development, a PLO spokesman cited by Radio Monte Carlo said the PLO will not form a provisional government before "guaranteeing" PLO participation in an international conference.

Egypt

Security forces cordoned off the Lawyers Association building in Cairo after a soldier was wounded in a shooting incident, Beirut radio reported. The incident occurred during a dispute between supporters and opponents of the Association's head, Ahmad al-Khawajah. Al-Khawajah's opponents, supporters of the New Wafd Party, recently occupied the building and one of them fired in the air to prevent an attempt by Al-Khawajah's supporters to storm the building.

MENA confirmed that the building has been cordoned off, noting that a number of Al-Khawajah's opponents are inside in possession of firearms. The agency cited a statement by Al-Khawajah denouncing the shooting incident.

Iran

Cooperation on Hostages—U.S. President George Bush's call for cooperation with Iran to win the release of U.S. hostages in Lebanon means Iran should "use this chance" to obtain the release of Iranian hostages, ETTELA'AT urged in a commentary reported by IRNA. The country is in a "very sensitive and vital" stage, the paper added, and the safeguarding of national and revolutionary interests are "certainly more important" than slogans.

Bazargan Interview—Former Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan affirmed that his Freedom Movement will contest the presidential elections in August if granted permission by the Interior Ministry, according to an interview with the TEHRAN TIMES cited by IRNA. Bazargan pointed out that his party's headquarters were ordered closed 7 months ago and that there are other obstacles to political activity.

Iran-Iraq

A group of 131 Iranian POW's left Baghdad for Iran 23 January, with a second group of 124 POW's leaving the next day, according to INA reports.

Afghanistan

Food/Security Situation—Soviet Major General Lev Serebrov, political chief of the military High Command in Kabul, accused the Afghan Government of partial responsibility for the food shortage in Kabul, TANJUG reported. Afghan officials failed to order the necessary quantities before the onset of winter, he asserted, noting that Soviet aircraft are daily bringing in food and other supplies and that this aid will continue "until the end of this week at least."

An initial batch of 1,000 tonnes of flour has been airlifted to Kabul and the frequency of transportation flights from the USSR to Kabul is increasing, according to TASS. The report added that several factors contributed to the shortages in Kabul including unfavorable weather conditions and "the criminal neglect" of a "number of senior bureaucrats."

Mujahidin groups based in Pakistan announced that they will ship "food and other essential goods" to Kabul and Jalalabad, AFP reported. The decision was made in order to "counter" claims that the shortages are due to an economic blockade by the mujahidin, the agency noted.

Moscow radio reported that "fierce fighting" in the Salang Pass has "paralyzed" the main highway between Kabul and the Soviet border.

According to diplomatic circles in Islamabad, the West German, Hungarian, Czechoslovak, and Bulgarian Embassies have begun to evacuate their nationals from Afghanistan, while Italy, France, Britain, and the United States "intend to close their missions in Kabul," AFP reported.

Mujahidin Differences—The mujahidin alliance based in Iran issued a statement rejecting the Peshawar-based groups' proposal for the composition of the future Consultative Council, according to Tehran television. The statement pointed out that the proposed council "lacks the necessary universality" and would "not be acceptable to all mujahidin." A Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman said his government hopes that "the issue is soon resolved amicably," Islamabad radio reported.

Pakistan

The acting chief minister of Baluchistan tendered his resignation in the wake of the local High Court decision to restore the dissolved Baluchistan Assembly, Islamabad radio reported. The speaker of the Assembly has summoned its members to reconvene in Quetta on 1 February. Neither the Baluchistan Government nor the Federal Government in Islamabad intend to appeal against the High Court decision, the radio noted.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Appeals for Support From Arab Leaders

JN2201183289 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1603 GMT 22 Jan 89

["Text" of appeal by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Arab leaders—date, place not given]

[Text] Your Majesties, Excellencies, and Highnesses the Arab kings and presidents:

While the heroic, blessed uprising of our Palestinian people continues inside occupied Palestine against the Israeli occupation to achieve freedom, independence, and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state, and at a time when our Palestinian struggle and political initiatives are gaining unanimous support from the international community, the Israeli Government cannot find a solution to its impasse other than escalating repression against the masses of the valiant uprising in an unprecedented manner, through giving expanded authorization to the Israeli occupation forces in the villages and camps to open fire indiscriminately and without receiving orders, in addition to demolishing houses, closing schools, besieging cities, preventing food and medical supplies from entering them and preventing government hospitals from treating the wounded or dispensing medicines.

Moreover, the Israeli Government gives a free hand to the armed settlers to use their weapons and to kill. This is in addition to attacking the holy places, particularly the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Ibrahimi Mosque, and to deporting and arresting people.

Through its recent repressive decisions, the Israeli Government has launched a new wave of terrorism, tyranny, and crazy violence against our heroic people in the homeland and against our children, women, and all our people's sons. In fact, the Israeli Government did not hesitate to officially declare the program of this new wave of terrorism, tyranny, and crazy violence through an overt official decision made by the Israeli Government to use all inhuman and brutal means to repress our people and to strike at the blessed uprising. This is in addition to preparing a war scenario and massing military forces on the Lebanese front against the Palestinian camps and the Lebanese cities and villages. They also might include other targets to find a way out of its internal impasse.

Your Majesties, Excellencies, and Highnesses, the leaders of the Arab nation, I appeal to you to stand on the side of our people in their confrontation of the dangers posed to our children and women as a result of this comprehensive repression declared by the Israeli Government against our valiant masses. I also appeal to you to take all necessary measures on all levels, in all arenas, and at all forums to curb the bestiality of the Israeli army and the official, organized Israeli terrorism against our heroic, steadfast masses in this sacred land.

At the same time, I stress to you that the resolute decision, on which all the sons of our people are unanimous, is to continue this blessed uprising and our national struggle until the Israeli occupation is deterred and until our people achieve independence and establish an independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Our Arab nation, which is now rallying around the steadfast and struggler sons and people of Palestine, is expecting a great deal from you, O Your Majesties, Excellencies, and Highnesses, in support of the Palestinian people and their heroic struggle to remove the yoke of occupation and to achieve their national independence. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Fain would they extinguish God's light with their mouths, but God will not allow but that His light should be perfected, even though the unbelievers may detest. [Koranic verses]

May God grant you success. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Your brother, Yasir 'Arafat

Official Denies Reports on Provisional Government

JN2201104689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] Dubayy, 22 Jan (WAKH)—A Palestinian official has denied reports to the effect that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has recently held consultations on the formation of a provisional Palestinian government and said that the meeting which is being currently held in Baghdad is tackling more pressing and important issues.

In a statement to today's issue of Dubayy AL-BAYAN, Dr Jamil Hilal, director general of the PLO's Information Department, said the recent meeting held by the Palestinian leaders in Tunis deferred the consideration of the issue pertaining to the formation of the provisional government to the coming meeting which might be held in mid-February.

The Palestinian official added that a political and legal committee has been formed to draw up reasonable bases that can be accepted by the PLO factions, with the understanding that a memorandum in this regard will be presented before 10 February.

PLO Radio on Formation of Popular Army

JN2201101389 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1945 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The formation of the Palestinian Popular Army in our occupied territory was announced on the 24th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution. The announcement, which was made in the Gaza Strip, said that the popular army is not to be regarded as an alternative to the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising [UNLU] but a means of continuing the glorious uprising in the occupied territory.

This measure derives its legitimacy from the resolutions of the latest PNC session, the uprising session, which was held in Algiers in November 1988. Paragraph 1-C of the PNC's political statement in connection with escalating and continuing the uprising stipulates strengthening and developing the popular committees and mass organizations and trade unions, including the strike groups and the popular army, to enhance their role and performance.

In its call No 32, the first after the formation of the popular army, UNLU said: UNLU congratulates our Palestinian masses on the birth of the Palestinian Popular Army and affirms that this is the PLO army, the army of the blessed uprising, which is basically composed of the strike forces, comprising all sides and subjected to the directives and orders of UNLU. UNLU asks all the Palestinian youths to enlist in the ranks of the national army.

The announcement about the formation of this army was welcomed by the various sectors of the Palestinian people, being a new organizational tool of the uprising, a development in methods of struggle with the Zionist enemy, and a practical application of the PNC resolutions and the will of UNLU. Despite this fact, certain parties have expressed reservations over its formation based on various considerations, such as the fear that confusion might arise on the level of the UNLU or the Palestinian people, the fear that the popular army membership would be confined to a certain category of youths who are wanted and pursued by the enemy authorities and who are dispersed outside their homes and areas, and for various organizational and factional reasons.

Precautions and wariness are a salient feature in determining future steps and defining the requirements of action toward escalating the uprising and developing its aims and methods, enabling it to inflict further harm on the Zionist occupation forces and political and economic interests. Therefore it is sometimes natural that these precautions and this wariness should go on record as a welcome means of enriching opinions and dialogue. However, such reservations cannot be beneficial and cannot realize their goal unless they are based on a scientific method, taking into account the facts of the current phase and analyzing the current conditions and facts in order to define the requirements of our action.

With the beginning of the uprising in the occupied territory in December 1987, a new phase of the Palestinian struggle began in order to realize the Palestinian people's hopes and national aspirations. The Palestinian people's experience of struggle against their direct enemies and agents had been accumulating since the beginning of the Palestinian revolution. The Palestinian people used many forms of struggle that had been employeed by peoples who rebelled against the colonialists.

Our people were able to test the means of their struggle in accordance with the requirements of each phase. The Palestinian uprising placed the Palestinian society in a new mold of struggle in light of the accumulated experience of struggle. The proper understanding of the nature and reality of the Zionist entity, its resources and reactions, as well as the careful study of the experience of peoples who triumphed over occupation, led to deriving the proper conclusions in terms of resisting the colonialists. This created an unprecedented confusion in the Zionist leadership, which now regards the uprising as a real war.

With the beginning of the uprising, the bulk of the Palestinian struggle operations was transferred to the occupied territory. UNLU was entrusted with the task of carrying out field operations and with the daily development of the struggle. UNLU is regarded as the field command of the PLO and of the PLO political command. And because it is the movement of united people, the uprising has created the popular tools and organizational frameworks to meet its struggle requirements and manage its own affairs. The uprising also created local field commands. Therefore, the yardstick of the success of any tool or organizational framework is the extent of people's and field command's acceptance of this tool, their adherence to it, and their conviction in its feasibility to realize the objective for which it was established.

Based on the above, the popular army is no exception. It is a tool of the uprising. Therefore, the necessity and feasibility of this tool is not judged by taking into consideration the support or lack of support of this or that party but by the extent of the acceptance of this tool by the people who are waging battles with the occupation. This tool is basically a popular tool, and is very effective, both in the field and in terms of objective considerations, in accomodating and organizing the uprising's strike force. Why the Palestinian Popular Army? The concept and aim of establishing this army is to adopt a method or a technical means of revolutionary struggle by peoples whose territories are occupied, taking into consideration the special nature of the Palestinian reality and organizing and institutionalizing units of people's resistance, so that when the proper circumstances are selected and good preparations are made with

suitable scientific methods, the conditions would not be far from developing in a positive direction, suitable for the revolution, and besieging the occupying force with all means of confrontation, both violent and nonviolent.

We are not going to review and analyze people's army theories. However, we would like to point out successful cases pertaining to experience in political freedom, in facing both occupations and fascist regimes, based on civilian protests and resistance, attracting broad sectors of the people, and escalating with perseverance the tools that are being used, including the popular army, until the occupation system is completely paralyzed and destroyed. In short, we can define the following three phases for the development of this path of struggle, which is similar to the Palestinian uprising's path of struggle.

1. The first is taking the initaitive and confronting the colonialist authorities internally with an overwheling uprising. This uprising includes large-scale popular protests, demonstrations in all forms, certain forms of popular and individual violence, and raising definite slogans and demands.

This phase highlights the people's great ability to forebear, adapt, and be disciplined in a methodical confrontation of repression, tyranny, and the policy of subjugation that the occupation authorities practice against them. The people of all ages and from various sectors will participate in resisting the occupation. The uprising's organization will be conducted in secret to the greatest extent possible to make it impregnable to the occupation authorities.

The rich and unlimited source from which the uprising imbibes its limitless energy for continuation is people's wrath against the occupation.

2. The second phase's elements are numerous. They are based on developing the internal organizational structure of the rebellious people despite the colonialist's persevering attempts to break this structure. Tools will be used which are formed within the available local means, and the people will be organized in the various tools of struggle, including the popular army tools.

The elements of this phase is based on the task of promoting and developing the uprising by moving from the level of demonstrations to the level of civil disobedience. This latter concept implies two moves in two directions:

a. Complete boycott of the authorities and noncooperation in the political, economic, and social fields.

b. Presenting effective bodies that are capable of effectively administering most of the affairs of the society under occupation.

In case it is impossible to raise the boycott of the occupation to its highest level at this stage, namely, complete civil disobedience and all forms of boycott, because of objective and subjective factors that do not help realize this objective, as is the case in the circumstances of the Palestinian uprising, ad hoc, practicable aims should be addressed such as continuing the uprising as long as possible; working through the uprising and developing it to activate all other available dimensions; mobilizing the people's own resources to realize comprehensive civil disobedience; sabotaging and weakening the occupation authorities' various establishments with the aim of robbing them of any practical use of their own existence; and burning the land under the feet of the occupiers and making them understand that occupation will cost them greatly from the humanitarian, political, economic, and psychological viewpoints.

3. The third phase is the practical establishment of an alternative national authority in any liberated area. In case the occupation authorities insist on imposing their control, this phase will include large-scale partisan operations within the available limits and tools such as the popular army as a complementary means for this mass struggle against an unjust occupying power.

This method embodies other forms of struggle because while it concentrates on political struggle, the long-term people's struggle does not rule out certain degrees of violence. In this regard, the popular army is regarded as a complementary tool for this method of people's struggle against the occupation authorities.

'Uprising' Leadership Issues Call No 33

JN2201182989 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1610 GMT 22 Jan 89

["Call No 33 issued by the PLO-Unified National Leadership of the Uprising, the call of challenge and confrontation"—date, place not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Call, call, call: No voice rises above the voice of the uprising. No voice rises above the voice of the people of Palestine, the people of the PLO.

O heroes of the people of the uprising: The Zionist enemy deludes itself into thinking that its new measures and policy of free murder and its use of various types of fatal bullets will succeed in confronting the uprising, lessen its ardor, and, consequently, stop the major change in the international stand in favor of our Palestinian people and their leader, the PLO. The criminals of the occupation also believe that these escalatory measures will create the appropriate atmosphere in the State of Palestine to revive the so-called self-administration plan. We are aware of the fact that the Zionist policy of

escalation and oppression is an attempt by the Zionist enemy to break the international siege around it and escape the political crisis brought by the uprising.

O heroes of the war of national independence: Long live your steel arms, which the Zionist military administration has failed to oppress. Blessed be your stones that defeated the unconquerable army. O masses of the heroic uprising: As you are recording daily epics of struggle, showing a momentous rise in your morale and revealing endless powers, capabilities, and potential to continue the struggle, the oppressive measures, regardless of the brutality of their exaggerated violence, will never make you stop the uprising until you achieve its national goals.

Regardless of the intensity of pressure, you will inevitably foil all the new plots, including the offer for political elections, as you did in the past with the plots of civil administration, autonomy, improved autonomy, the Camp David Accords, the Reagan plan, the Shultz plan, and the Jordanian option, by sharing responsibilities, saving whatever can be saved, and improving living conditions. You will send them to the dump of history.

So, masses of the heroic uprising, show more determination, struggle, and insistence on reaching the goals. Let us declare to the world in a louder voice that there is no reversal of our decision to reunite the kinfolk in all areas of the diaspora on the soil of the homeland, to achieve the right to self-determination, to adhere to the just national rights, and to establish a just and lasting peace in our region through a fully empowered international conference to be attended by the PLO through an independent Palestinian delegation and on an equal footing with the other parties.

Let us declare to the world in a louder voice that there will be no selling out of the blood of martyrs, the groans of the injured, and the tears of the bereaved and that our people's sacrifices have only one price—namely, jumping [as heard] with freedom, independence, and national sovereignty over the sacred soil of our homeland.

As we renew the pledge to continue struggle regardless of sacrifice and declare that the Zionist measures of oppression and persecution will never intimidate us, we demand that the international community bear its responsibility in providing international protection for our people against the crimes of the occupation army. Let the Security Council and the other international bodies take the initiative to secure protection for our heroic people remaining steadfast on their national soil. Heroic masses of our people, being the militant arm of the PLO in the State of Palestine, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising [UNLU] invites you to adopt the following action steps:

1. The UNLU appeals to the brother merchants who sell all types of goods to have a spirit of cooperation and to sympathize with the sons of their people and their sufferings by not raising prices and exploiting the situation. The UNLU affirms that our people and their popular committees and strike forces will not hesitate to punish those who tamper with the people's livelihood and all those who trade on their sufferings and tribulation. It calls on the moneychangers not to tamper with currency exchange rates, as this harms our people.

2. While reaffirming that it will continue its war against Zionist products, the UNLU appeals to the brokers to completely suspend their dealings in Zionist products that have a local substitute or that are not needed by our people.

3. The UNLU reemphasizes the need to continue not paying taxes to the Zionist enemy and calls on the strike forces to intensify their activities in cities, villages, and camps and to decisively and effectively confront the Zionist tax collectors, vampires who live off the blood of our people.

4. The UNLU calls on the owners of industrial plants, workshops, and national institutions to raise the wages of workers and employees to offset the devaluation of the [Jordanian] dinar and the new price hikes and in a manner that such an increase will be no less than 40 percent. The UNLU calls on trade unions and professional committees to work seriously for attaining this.

5. The UNLU calls on academicians, professors of universities and institutes of higher education, and school teachers to use their time in preparing studies and undertaking research work to develop and Palestinize the curricula and to exert efforts to attain this noble objective and to encourage popular education and participation therein, forming national education bodies in every city, village, and camp to rob the occupation authorities and their policies of the opportunity to stultify our students through the orders to close schools, universities, and institutes of higher education en masse.

6. The UNLU warns against attempts by some agents and infiltrators to spread disarray and division among the ranks of our people through their night attacks against the lives and properties of honest citizens. We appeal to our masses to activate the guard committees to foil the schemes of our people's enemies. We also call on the strike forces to teach them the lesson they deserve. We warn against the tendentious statements and rumors and call on our masses to strictly abide by the UNLU statements and calls with the only leading framework of the uprising in the land of the State of Palestine. [sentence as heard]

7. The UNLU warns against the attendance of suspect meetings and parties called by both the civil administration and the occupation's tools. It affirms that attending these meetings and parties is a stab in the back of the uprising's masses as well as a violation of national consensus.

8. The UNLU appeals to our people's masses to continue the building of the institutions of our Palestinian state by completing the unity of all vocational and popular sectors. In this regard, the UNLU highly appreciates the unity of the authors and writers federation, since unity is one of the objectives of our people's uprising.

9. The UNLU calls on the world as well as the progressive, democratic Israeli public opinion to play their humanitarian and civilized role toward the Palestinian Arab man and to prevent the savage practices being carried out against the detainees, the strugglers for Palestinian freedom, so these detention camps will not turn into places for killings similar to the Nazi concentration camps, especially since the Ansar-3 detainees no longer feel that their lives are safe because they are constantly subjected to provocation and killing according to the mood of the officers and the administration.

The UNLU highly appreciates the militant role played by the heroes of the strike forces and urges them to carry out further confrontations with the occupation forces as well as with the herd of settlers, the treasonous agents, the robbers, and those who blackmail our merchants and our people's masses and who also attack the appointed committees in addition to those working in the civil administration's bodies. While appreciating and greeting the national role of our honorable workers who respond to the UNLU's appeals, the UNLU urges our workers not to sleep at their working places on the days of general strikes. The UNLU also appeals to our workers not to pick citrus fruits on Zionist farms and to ban work in Zionist settlements established on the land of our esteemed Palestinian state.

The UNLU values the positive steps taken by the honorable ones who responded to the UNLU's calls and who resigned from their jobs and posts in the civil administration's bodies. In this regard, the UNLU urges the workers in these bodies to resign immediately. Meanwhile, the UNLU warns everyone who tries to retreat from resignation or who works in place of those who have resigned.

O masses of our independent Palestinian state: The continued escalation of the uprising is accompanied by the continuation and doubling of the political move on all levels. Given this, the UNLU emphasizes the need to continue the political struggle being led by brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and by the PLO Executive Committee in their moves and tours of world states based on both the PNC resolutions and the historic peace initiative in order to gain further international support for our national cause.

The UNLU also emphasizes the need to firmly and solidly adhere to the objectives of struggle in the way presented by the uprising and also in the way mentioned in the resolutions passsed by the PNC's session of the uprising. At the same time, the UNLU warns against any attempt to dismantle, fragment, bypass, or attack the PNC resolutions by being dragged into or through dealing with the so-called peace proposals disseminated by the Israeli Government. Only abidance by the PNC resolutions will secure the national rights of the uprising's masses. As the UNLU salutes the countries that have upgraded Palestinian representation, it calls on Arab and other countries to maintain their support for the Palestinian people and their just cause through the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of our people. The UNLU appreciates the EC's positive moves to break the logjam of the Middle East peace process and secure our people's national rights.

The U.S. Administration still pursues a position hostile to our people and their yearnings and national rights. The UNLU rejects the American logic of equating the heavily armed occupation army with our unarmed people striving for their human dignity and human rights. The UNLU calls on the U.S. Administration to accord official recognition to the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of our Palestinian people and to our right to repatriation, self-determination, and statehood on our national soil.

The UNLU likewise calls on the UN secretary general and the Security Council's permament members to work for sending international emergency forces to protect Palestinian civilians in the occupied land of Palestine as a prelude to an international peace conference. They are also requested to see to the formation of an interntional inquiry commission to investigate the crimes of the occupation forces against our people.

The UNLU applauds the Israeli peace forces that have come out in favor of the Palestinian peace initiative and urges all of the Israeli peaceloving forces to back our national rights to repatriation, self-determination, and statehood as well as the legitimacy and exclusivity of PLO representation of our people, wherever they reside. They are called upon to seize the historic peace opportunity.

The UNLU calls upon all of the sisterly Arab countries to honor all of their obligations to back the uprising according to the Algiers resolutions and to carry on their political moves in support of the Palestinian peace efforts. The UNLU further urges the Arab masses to designate the 9th day of every month as a day of Arab solidarity with the Palestinian uprising.

Great masses of our people, the people of the PLO: The UNLU stresses the importance of and implementation of the following militant activities:

1. 25 and 26 January as days of militancy by the strike forces and of confronting treasonous agents and appointed committees.

2. 28 January as a day of militant escalation—marches, demonstrations, and sit-ins—in addition to sending memorandums in solidarity with the uprising detainees.

3. 30 January a day of the Palestinian Molotov.

4. 31 January a day of general strike to protest the policies of tax collection and to show solidarity with our courageous merchants.

5. 1 and 2 February as days of promoting local products and waging a war against Israeli goods.

6. 4 February a day for marches and demonstrations to protest the demolition of homes.

7. 8 and 9 February days of general strikes to mark the monthly anniversary of the continuation of the uprising.

8. 10 February: The UNLU congratulates the Palestinian Communist Party on its 7th birthday and designates it as a day of militant escalation and massive marches and demonstrations.

9. Fridays and Sundays are set for marches and demonstrations setting off from mosques and churches.

[Signed] The PLO-The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising, the State of Palestine

Algeria

Reportage on Visit of UN Envoy to Algiers

Sums Up Results of Talks

LD2001141789 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] The UN secretary general's special representative is in Algiers tonight after a visit to the Sahraoui refugee camps and the SDAR liberated areas. Gros Espiell, who is heading an OAU mission, ended his visit today with talks with SDAR President Mohamed Abdelaziz. His next stopovers are Nouakchott and Bamako, where on Saturday he will inform the OAU president of the results of his visit; he will do the same with the OAU secretary general at the beginning of February. It is worth recalling that Gros Espiell went to Marrakesh yesterday and was received by King Hassan II.

Early this afternoon, Gros Espiell summed up the results of his talks with the Sahraoui officials in a statement:

[Begin Gros Espiell recording] This mission enabled me to meet Polisario Front leaders and be introduced to some of them whom I did not know, particularly Mohamed Abdelaziz, the Polisario Front president with whom I had important and earnest talks—of which, of course, I will speak first to the UN secretary general and the current OAU president.

I would like here, on behalf of the UN secretary general and of the current OAU president, to thank the parties for the very friendly and particularly warm welcome given to the present mission. After meeting the two parties, I must say that I found (?both) encouragement and deep attachment to the peace process started by the United Nations Organization in cooperation with the OAU everywhere. [sentence indistinct]

Given the nature and importance of the dialogue begun recently in Marrakech, which is entirely and perfectly within the framework of the good offices of the UN secretary general and the current OAU president, I expressed to the parties in question the entire satisfaction of the two individuals and their strong urging to (?work) in a spirit of compromise, which can quickly lead to a peace so eagerly awaited and desired by the Maghreb people. [end recording]

Optimistic on Sahara Solution

LD2101192589 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid has received the special UN representative for Western Sahara. He informed him of the latest developments in this matter. [sentence indistinct]. At the end of the audience, Mr Gros Espiell met the national press. [name indistinct] recorded the following statement for us:

[Begin recording] [Gros Espiell] The audience was a very pleasant one. I had lengthy talks with the president [sentence indistinct]. We listened very attentively to what the president said. I think this meeting is enormously significant because he stated Algeria's full support for the peace proposals; he gave assurances as to his full understanding and the Algerian Government's support for the peace process in order to reach a just and lasting solution to the Western Sahara issue on the basis of a credible referendum. I leave here with a feeling of great satisfaction over this meeting, which reiterated Algeria's position of help for the efforts made by the United Nations and the OAU to secure a resolution of the issue.

[Name indistinct] Mr Gros Espiell, are you optimistic as to a speedy resolution of the Western Sahara issue?

[Gros Espiell] Yes, I am optimistic. Naturally, I think there are matters which are difficult; but the current situation is a favorable one and I believe that with openness, a spirit of conciliation, flexibility, the understanding and support of the observer-countries—Algeria and Mauritania—and with the dialogue opened between the two sides a solution can be found. [end recording]

Meets With Bessaieh, Leaves

NC2201155689 Paris AFP in English 1527 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] Algiers, Jan 22 (AFP)—United Nations envoy Hector Gros Espiell left here on Sunday after a session of talks with Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh, official sources said.

On Saturday Mr. Gros Espiell, the representative of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar for the Western Sahara, met Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid who was, he said, in "complete agreement" with the U.N. chief on the Western Sahara issue.

Mr. Gros Espiell, who has been on a fact-finding mission to the region visiting Morocco, Mauritania, Algeria and the Western Sahara, was due to visit Mali for talks with Malian head of state Moussa Traore, chairman of the Organisation of African Unity.

The OAU is associated with a U.N. peace plan which envisages a referendum in the former Spanish colony claimed by Morocco but for which the Algerian-backed Polisario Front has proclaimed an independent state.

Egypt

'U.S. Terms' for PLO Inclusion in Talks Noted

NC2401073989 Cairo MENA in English 0720 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA)—[Passage omitted] AL-JUMHURIYAH, under banner headlines, listed U.S. terms for the participation of the PLO in the peace

process. A Palestinian source close to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat said the conditions were conveyed to the PLO through the U.S. ambassador in Tunis.

The conditions are, according to the source:

— Exclusion of a number of PLO elements viewed as terrorist by Washington, including Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas].
— Dismantling Unit 17, Fatah security unit.
— Selection of moderate Palestinian elements in forming the Palestinian government.
— Establishing close relations with Jordan, leading to a confederation.

The PLO presented counterproposals.

Lawyers Group Building Shooting Wounds Soldier

NC2401081289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Egyptian security troops yesterday threw a cordon around the Egyptian Lawyers Association Building in Cairo in the wake of a shooting incident that left a soldier wounded. It should be recalled that lawyers who are members of the New Wafd Party occupied the Lawyers Association Building last Thursday. They then established an emergency general assembly which fired Ahmad al-Khawajah, head of the Lawyers Association, and then formed a temporary association.

Reporting the shooting incident, security sources said that a group of lawyers supporting Al-Khawajah tried to storm the association building yesterday. But Ahmad Nasir, one of the New Wafd Party lawyers, fired in the air to prevent the lawyers from entering the building, wounding a warrant officer who was immediately transferred to the hospital. However, Ahmad Nasir denied the incident, saying that the security sources have disseminated this rumor to justify any move to storm the building.

Building Cordoned Off

NC2401075889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—Ahmad al-Khawajah, head of the Lawyers Association, has denounced a shooting incident involving an innocent citizen today. Al-Khawajah emphasized in a statement here today that the attack against the lawfully-elected association council violates the law, noting that the council will continue to carry out its duties.

In another development, more than 2,000 lawyers representing the association's branch offices throughout the Republic arrived in Cairo today to follow up on the events that have taken place at the association's headquarters. However, they could not enter the association building because the security authorities had cordoned it off. The security arrangements followed reports that a number of lawyers opposed to the current association council led by Ahmad al-Khawajah are inside the association building and have firearms, which could prove hazardous to citizens' safety.

Islamic Leader Criticizes Al-Azhar Shaykh

PM2301160989 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 16 Jan 89 p 3

[Part I of interview with Islamic Groups "Amir General" Dr 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman by Hisham Tantawi in Al-Fayyum; date not given]

[Text] [Tantawi] I will begin with the latest event, that is, the shaykh of Al-Azhar's statement.

['Abd al-Rahman] With regard to the shaykh of Al-Azhar's statement. First of all he based the statement on what was published by the national newspapers, especially AKHBAR AL-YAWM, and their comments on the 'Ayn Shams incidents. The papers published their comments Saturday and his statement was issued Sunday—which proves that the statement was prepared beforehand on the basis of reports he had received from security organs.

The shaykh of Al-Azhar did not observe fairness in his statement. He did not base his statement on confirmed reports. This is because what is published in the press, especially AKHBAR AL-YAWM, tends to maintain a particular line, namely, praising the ruler. They tend to adopt a special position toward Muslims in general. For instance, Musa Sabri blessed the statement and advised that it should be the first lesson at schools and universities. Anyhow, the shaykh of Al-Azhar should have tried to establish the truth first, especially as it was he who wrote before that these papers do not observe Islamic teachings and publish things that violate the religion and spread vile deeds among the believers. They publish rape incidents and so on. Around 29 September he issued a statement blaming the press for that line.

So he should have established the truth first and remembered the the words of our Almighty God: "Ye who believe, if a wicked person comes to you with any news, ascertain the truth" [Koranic verse]. So the shaykh of Al-Azhar's statement clearly incriminates the Muslim youths, as it considers their mosques to be the mosques of "harm." The shaykh of Al-Azhar should not have said something like that. This is because the mosque of harm is not where the truth is said and Islamic matters are explained. The mosque of harm is what appeases and praises the government and considers the regime of a state not applying God's rules a regime of security and stability. It is what tourists enter "naked" and is not based on an Islamic system.

[Tantawi, interrupting] Do you mean the Al-Azhar Mosque?

['Abd al-Rahman] Yes. The Al-Azhar Mosque should have been established on an Islamic basis, not as a place in which women tourists enter in return for a few pennies, or a place open to immodestly dressed tourists and matters violating the shari'ah. Furthermore, the mosque of harm is the mosque whose leaders praise a state allowing alcoholic drinks, gambling, and adultery and consider it a stable regime that should be preserved. A lot of things can be said about the shaykh of Al-Azhar's statement.

Instead of his heated and outstanding statement, the shaykh of Al-Azhar should have directed a word at the government, advising it to treat the youths nicely. He says that if youths are directed well, things will be good for them. He should have advised the government not to arrest and imprison young men merely because they call for the application of the Islamic Shari'ah. So the shaykh of Al-Azhar's statement reflects clear appeasement. He also praises those who appointed him shaykh of al-Azhar. If the shaykh of Al-Azhar was appointed by senior ulema, it would have been much better, and he would not have appeased the regime.

We do not find that unusual from the shaykh of Al-Azhar. After all, it was he who refused to testify when he was called as a witness by the Supreme State Security Court in the case called "Those Delivered from Fire." It was he who took part in passing the personal statute, which is full of shortcomings and corruption. In fact some ulema regard as infidels those who issued or took part in passing that law. So we do not find that suprising from the shaykh of Al-Azhar, as his statement is repudiated and does not deserve any consideration or discussion. This is because it is a violent, harsh attack on the Islamic group from beginning to end. He is urging the ulema to launch a sweeping revolution in schools and universities, that is, instead of calling on them to meet and exchange dialogue with the youths, which is the better way.

[Tantawi] Probably the shaykh of Al-Azhar and His Eminence Shaykh al-Sha'rawi had to deliver that statement because of the 'Ayn Shams incidents and the murder of the police officer 'Isam al-Din Shams, especially as tension was prevailing in the 'Ayn Shams area.

['Abd al-Rahman] Actually matters should be resolved unemotionally, especially when it comes to religious matters. Although the incidents were covered by the papers, one should have gone to the actual scene to ascertain the truth.

[Tantawi] So the shaykh of Al-Azhar should have gone to the 'Ayn Shams area to see for himself what exactly was happening.

['Abd al-Rahman] It would not have been difficult for the shaykh of Al-Azhar and his men to go there to ascertain what was happening: Were they [Islamic group members] erecting gallows? Were they crucifying people? Were they beating them up? Were they preventing them from going to work? Or were those reports tendentious allegations aimed at achieving certain objectives? If he had gone to there, he would have heard very good things instead of the evil things he read: He would have heard that the Islamic group reconciles people, treats patients in its clinics, resolves people's problems, and helps the oppressed and confronts the oppressor until the right of the oppressed is recovered.

He would have heard good things about Islam's rules on how brothers should treat one another. Then he would have realized that his statement was not right and that it contained inappropriate hadiths [the prophet's sayings] and verses which were directed at the wrong people.

[Tantawi] Another statement was issued by an ulema committee comprising His Eminence Shaykh al-Sha-'rawi and two respectable and honorable shaykhs, namely Shaykh Al-Ghazali and Shaykh al-Tayyib al-Najjar. What is your comment on that statement?

['Abd al-Rahman] Sir, that committee is not, as was said, an independent one. It is a committee that issued a statement at a particular time. We ask: Why now? If it was an independent committee, it would not have issued that statement at that particular time.

[Tantawi] What do you mean by not independent?

['Abd al-Rahman] It is not independent because it belongs to a particular quarter. It was the Awqaf minister who called it to convene.

[Tantawi] But Shaykh al-Sha'rawi does not belong to the Awqaf minister.

['Abd al-Rahman] Even so, it was the Awqaf minister who called it to convene. An independent committee is one whose members meet somewhere to discuss events in Egypt and explore the religion's views of that matter. But the Awqaf minister called the committee to convene and claimed that neither he nor the government was directing it. He said that it would meet at Al-Azhar. But the Committee issued something almost dictated by the Awqaf minister. The committee receives instructions from and is formed by the authority. They deny that they are the authority's ulema. And such a denial constitutes an accusation against the authority's ulema, who include preachers and Awqaf inspectors and departments.

If they are saying they are not the authority's ulema, what would they say about the authority's ulema? What would they say about the Awqaf organs and thousands of ulema, inspectors, and preachers—that huge body? What about the Al-Azhar preachers body? They are denying that they are the authority's ulema as if they are directing this clear accusation at those who are working in the organ belonging to the government. In fact that applies to them because they issued the statement which points an accusing finger at a party trying to rescue another party.

In order to resolve Egypt's problems at this difficult time, our honorable ulema should have guided the youths well and instructed the government to apply the Islamic shari'ah, instead of claiming that the time is not suitable for applying it. They should have instructed the government to apply the Shari'ah without waiting for any particular conditions. They must tell the government: Release the youths from prison and give them medicine, food, and clothes. They must tell the government: Release women from police stations, where they are detained as hostages until their sons, brothers, and fathers give themselves up. They should have said all that in their statement to establish fairness instead of appeasing the government. If the statement had been made by the State Security Investigation, we would have said that a deviationist quarter had issued the statement. How can such a statement be issued by the ulema whom the Egyptian people expect to say the truth and fear no one but God?

[Tantawi] You say the the statement appeases the government and is dishonest. If you are asked to deliver a statement on the 'Ayn Shams incidents and the murder of the police officer, what would you say?

['Abd al-Rahman] The statement must be prepared first, because it is supposed to be concentrated and accurate. But I can guide people and say that religion is our line and objective. We must preach God in a correct manner and advocate all principles of Islam.

[Tantawi] You say we must preach with wisdom and good lessons.

['Abd al-Rahman] Yes. We must preach with wisdom and good lessons as instructed by our God. No two people would differ over the fact that we should preach with wisdom and good lessons. The Koranic and prophetic teachings must be explained to people in a gentle and amiable manner. We must invite people to the way of God with wisdom and good preaching. This is the statement which, if asked, I would deliver.

Ulema's Statement Rejects 'Violence, Compulsion'

JN1801213089 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
2 Jan 89 p 3

["Text" of statement issued by the ulema of Muslims "prepared by Shaykh Muhammad Mutwalli al-Sha'rawi, Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali, and Dr Muhammad al-Tayyib al-Najjar" and "read by Shaykh Muhammad Mutwalli al-Sha'rawi"; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The reform sought by Islam to the social affairs depends in the first place on persuasion, education, and rational dialogue. This reform categorically rejects resort to violence, compulsion, or encroachment on others' rights in the name of religion.

The honorable shari'a lays down clear ways to change the wrongdoing and deviation. These ways do not include accusation of blasphemy or a leap to reach the objective. And this is what is meant by the following verse in the Koran: "Invite all to the way of the Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching; and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious."

The hadith frequently prohibits accusing Muslims of being infidels. Al-Bukhari and Muslim cited Ibn 'Umar—may God be pleased with him—as saying that God's Prophet—may God's peace and blessings be upon him—said: If a man says to his brother O infidel, one of the two will bear the consequences. And if the accusation is not true it will rebound. Al-Bukhari and Muslim also cited Abu Dhar—may God be pleased with him—as saying that he heard God's Prophet—may God's prayers and peace be upon him—saying: He who accuses a man of infidelity or says that he is the enemy of God while this man is not so, this will rebound.

We believe that the officials in Egypt do not reject a judgement from God or a principle in Islam. They work so that the Islamic mission will reach its extent in terms of achievement and implementation. However, the wait for the appropriate circumstances calls for patience.

Therefore, we call on the masses of youth to abide by God's limits and to keep away from what harms Islam. We call on them to realize that the change called for by the shari'a should be on monotonous stages stated in the hadith: He who sees something wrong should change this with his hand, and if he cannot change it he should change it with his tongue, and if he cannot he should change it with his heart.

The ulema agreed that changing the wrongdoing by hand is the responsibility of the ruler and every person within the border of his state. It is a duty to stop the process of changing the wrongdoing if it leads to a worse deterioration because allowing the change without restrictions will lead to spreading confusion in the society, in addition to harming the interests of religion and the homeland.

It is proven in the shari'a that the execution of the punishments stipulated in the Koran is the right of the ruler or anyone whom he deputizes. It never happened during the era of the prophet, the companions of the prophet, or those who came after them that a group arrogated itself the right to execute punishments and judgements without permission from the legal rule. It has been proven throughout the ages that the rulers alone execute punishments and change wrongdoing by hand.

In our capacity as servants of God, we are ready to sit with anyone who has a suspicion or a contrary thought so as to clarify to him the truth and guide him to the right path.

We have great confidence in our state that it will be more concerned to help truth prevail, remove the false, and reinforce the virtues and the religious and ethical values because this will lead to the happiness of the individuals and community.

Sa'dah Criticizes Muslim Brotherhood Leader

JN1901162089 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 14 Jan 89 pp 1, 8

["Political Stand" column by Ibrahim Sa'dah: "A reply to the General Guide"]

[Text] In two previous articles, I expressed astonishment with the silence of Muhammad Hamid Abu al-Nasr, Muslim Brotherhood general guide, on many non-Islamic ideas propagated by the extremist Islamic groups, and on the acts of brutal violence which those who hold these ideas seek to impose on our youths, society, and national unity. I received the following reply from Muhammad Hamid Abu al-Nasr:

Esteemed brother Ibrahim Sa'dah, may God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

I read all your articles calling on me to speak "after this longstanding silence." I would have liked to visit you, but I was prevented by the wave of extreme cold. Enclosed is the statement issued by the Muslim Brotherhood general guide on the recent incidents. Perhaps I say nothing new when I say I was banned from attending a seminar by the Law Faculty at 'Ayn Shams University a few days ago. I am always willing to explain the Muslim Brotherhood's view of all developments, but there are matters out of my control preventing me from doing so.

Please accept my respect and thanks in advance.

[Signed] Muhammad Hamid Abu al-Nasr, Muslim Brotherhood general guide.

Thanks to Muhammad Hamid Abu al-Nasr. I wish him continued health speedy recovery from his cold.

The statement of the Muslim Brotherhood general guide on the recent events says: Last week's papers published a statement by their eminence the ulema announced from Al-Azhar. We would like to declare to the public here that the phenomenon of conflagration between security men and youths and exchanging arguments through bullets are unacceptable practices. The poor people are most likely to pay the price. Both sides are from the people. However, this phenomenon and other clashes are an expression of the people's suffering as a result of the implementation of the emergency law which poses a constant threat to the people and can put any person in prison to stay for as long as God and the Interior Ministry want.

Thus, the people live in distress, fear, and terror. They cannot express their opinions freely. Moreover, the emergency law chases Muslims all the time, while advocates of other views contradicting the principles of Islam spread their ideas through the mass media. The most important result of this phenonmenon is the exorbitant price hikes which has afflicted all Egyptian families. The situation was exacerbated by the failure of all the laws which have been issued to curtail high prices. This is so because these laws are based on incorrect grounds.

In addition, the lowly media have stormed all houses to entice young men and women with all sorts of seduction and corruption, in an onslaught against the moralities, values, and principles of Islam through lowly arts paid for by the state's funds, although our people, with their Muslim majority and Coptic minority, are religious. A significant and serious practice within this phenomenon is not allowing any group of people to form a party expressing their views and feelings under the threat of the parties law. This law is the stumbling block to the free expression of views and to any public role in encouraging what is correct and renouncing what is incorrect, or in accepting this or rejecting that.

We agree with their eminence the scholars on the subject of accusations of infidelity and changing the wrongdoing. The Muslim Brotherhood group has for the past 60 years—since it was formed by the martyred Imam, Hasan al-Banna—observed, and is still observing, one of its main principles—that is not to accuse anyone who pronounces the shahadatayn [the Muslim creed: There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is the Prophet of Allah] of infidelity, unless he rejects one of the established religious doctrines. The group has also followed, and is still following, the method of "invite (all) to the Way of the Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching." [Koranic verse]

This is the method which we call for and hope that people will follow. Our Imam al-Hudaybi, may God bless his soul, published his book, "Preachers Not Judges", and dealt with the subject of accusations of infidelity in a clear and frank manner. This is where we are now, and this is what we witness God on and call on people to follow.

All events have not been able to suppress this large, strong group or weaken its determination. Our current economic, moral, and living problems resulted from previous eras, one of which took its principles from the socialist philosophy, while the other took them from the capitalist philosophy. Both have brought misery and catastrophe to the country. What if the state today declares that it will begin to take steps toward implementing Islamic laws, to govern through Islam, and to restore to Egypt its shining Islamic face so that all people can enjoy freedom, equality, love, and sympathy.

We strongly call for a swift response to this popular demand so that Allah may be pleased with us all—officials and citizens—and so that we all can live as loving brothers.

If the people of the towns had but believed and feared God, we should indeed have opened up to them (all kinds of) blessings from heaven and earth. [part of a Koranic verse]

[Signed] Muhammad Hamid Abu al-Nasr.

This was the verbatim text of the Muslim Brotherhood general guide's statement, which he issued after the statement issued by their eminence the scholars which they declared in the Al-Azhar court a few days ago.

I hope that Muhammad Hamid Abu al-Nasr will allow me to make some comments about his statement:

The general guide has done well to declare his rejection of the phenomenon of clashes between security men and youths and the resort to bullets instead of dialogue. This rejection is not that of the Muslim Brotherhood group alone, but it is the rejection of all Egyptian people. No one accepts, or approves of, the murder of an Egyptian security man by a knife at the hands of an Egyptian youth. Also, no one accepts, or approves of, the murder of an Egyptian youth by the bullets of an Egyptian security man. In both cases, the murderer and the victim are two Egyptian Muslims fighting each other, and this we all reject. This also makes us insist on our call for an improvement in the language of dialogue and for its spread everywhere among the fundamentalist youths, who have misunderstood religion, and among their eminence the scholars who can correct these misconceptions and whose followers want to enforce them through swords, chains, grenades, and bullets.

Your Excellency the Muslim Brotherhood general guide: Please tell me what will be the reaction to the violence carried out by fundamentalist youth groups, which accuse whichever officials and citizens they want of infidelity? Your excellency the general guide:

Tell me what will the people's reaction be when they are surprised by someone attacking and beating up a citizen in the street, and by someone who stops a woman in the street, ties her to a light pole, and slashes her body with chains and whips?

Tell me, Mr Abu al-Nasr: How will life be inside university campuses, higher education institutions, and secondary schools after the little fundamentalists try to impose their ideas on their teachers, cancel their decisions, determine their responsibilities, and prevent them from talking to their female students or colleagues?

What is happening in our universities, higher institutes, and our social and sport clubs as a result of the small extremists behavior has created anger, rancor, and concern. Parents fear—day and night—that their boys and girls might be exposed to provocations by those tyrants. These provocations begin with obscenity and beating, and end with using arms in slaughtering, stabbing, and tearing up bodies.

We have all heard of the perplexing incident that took place in one of our universities recently. A university professor was speaking with his female colleague when one of the youths came to separate them and to ask the professor about the crime he is committing for speaking with his female colleague. The university professor was fortunate because he was speaking with his wife. The youth was not ashamed of his stand, but on the contrary, he asked his professor to present his family identity card to prove that he was married to the lady standing with him. The university professor searched for his identity card in his pocket but did not find it. He then remembered that the identity card was in his suitcase in his office on the fourth floor of the faculty building. The ruler, who claimed to have divine authority, insisted that the professor should go get his identity card. The female professor remained a hostage in the hands of the terrorist youth until she and the man who was standing with her were acquitted. In the end the two university professors were saved by a miracle.

This incident, Mr Hamid Abu al-Nasr, is a mere drop in a sea of ignorance, terror, and terrorism from which thousands of our youths have been drinking for many years. It is the people's right for the government to provide them with security and safety in their own country. This is one of the people's basic rights and the rulers' first duty.

And the armed clashes between the extremists and the security men came as an inevitable bloody necessity. It is absurd to see a few Egyptians forming a state within the state or imposing their terrorism on those around them, their neighbors, and those who are not related to them while the security organs are standing with arms crossed incapable of protecting the innocent people who, unfortunately, fell into the hands of the small terrorists. If the security organs fail to carry out their first and only duty—that is, the protection of the citizens and the enforcement of law against the outlaws—the people will not have mercy on them, they will lose confidence in these organs that are incapable of protecting them, and the law of the jungle will prevail in our country.

Fortunately, we have not reached this state which we do not accept for ourselves or for others. The security organs were forced to confront extremism and the extremists and to defend themselves with the same weapons used by terrorism and the terrorists. And victims fell from here and there. Dear Egyptian blood was shed despite the fact that

the security men risk their souls in every confrontation with those who are lying in wait to encroach on our people's safety and our country's security.

There is a big difference between the two warring fronts. The terrorist front is the one that threatened security; carried arms to strike at innocent and peaceful people; accused the rulers and people of being infidels; beat, tortured, mutilated, and killed citizens; refused to surrender to laws; and insisted on confronting the security men until the last man and last bullet.

Meanwhile, the security front carried out its duty in pursuing the remnants of terrorists throughout Egypt. When the security organs succeed in surrounding an extremist group in one of its armed hideouts the security men will not open fire on those under siege but ask them to surrender for investigation and to transfer them to court so that judgements will be issued in light of the accusations leveled against them. Those under the siege usually refuse to give up their arms and surrender to those who succeeded in besieging them. And the security men usually are faced with a shower of bullets from all sides killing our soldiers and officers. Thus, the security men are forced to respond in kind to stop the massacre.

This is exactly what our security forces and indeed all of the security forces around the world do in confronting outlaws who terrorize their people and seek to create for themselves a state within a state. The picture could have been different if it were the security forces that opened fire on innocents, killing citizens not involved in any wrongdoing, drawing pleasure from torturing ordinary people merely to assert themselves! This has never happened and never will happen. Otherwise, security men in Egypt would be descendents of Dracula, the notorious vampire!

Perhaps you agree with me, your excellency, the general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, that the armed confrontation between the extremists and security forces cannot possibly be halted and terminated unilaterally. I, likewise, believe you concur with my opinion that the initiative for laying down arms should come from the extremists of our misled youths who must revert to religion and promote it with wisdom and good counsel. It just makes no sense for these extremist young men to torture and terrorize people and use arms in order to spread their ignorance and then expect security men to reciprocate with bouquets of flowers.

Your statement, Mr Abu al-Nasr, said that this phenomenon and similar confrontations here and there are but an expression of popular resentment of the emergency laws that constitute a constant source of threat. I beg to differ, not that I stand for the emergency laws to remain in force. No one in Egypt—the ruled and rulers alike—wants to live indefinitely under these laws which, as their designation suggests, are transient. My disagreement with the general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood only touches the fact that we were forced into the emergency laws by alarmingly increased and widespread terrorism.

All of us know how and when the terror of the so-called extremist Islamic groups began. All of us recall how we were shaken out of our slumber on the sad morning of the assassination of Anwar al-Sadat, Egypt's great departed president, as he and we were marking the anniversary of our stunning victory against Israel on 6 October! Only then did we wise up to the considerable danger that was surreptitiously active for years. The hideous face was unmasked on that day which we both relish and abhor. We were surprised to learn that numerous groups equipped with all types of weapons, and funded by the enemies of Egypt, some adjacent to our country, existed. They were scheming and bracing to topple our peaceful country in a vortex of panic, blood, and terror. Our rulers had no choice but to discharge their responsibility of saving the people from the affliction that had been planned against Egypt's future by ignoramuses and enemies.

Obviously, we had been forced into the emergency laws, taking extra care to act according to President Mubarak's orders that they be applied only when absolutely necessary and in proportion to the imminent danger posed by those against whom the legal process should take its course.

I have no quarrel with you over the danger inherent in rising prices. Certainly, inflation exacerbates the suffering of all of the social strata and income groups. The Egyptian people are not alone in suffering from these worldwide economic ills. All governments exert themselves toward easing this heavy burden. Our government is dutybound to do all it can to address that problem which carries serious implications.

Again, Your Excellency the general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, I disagree with your attack on the Egyptian media which your statement characterizes as (base information that intrudes into all homes to entice young men and women with all kinds of lures and corruption and combats morals, values and Islamic tenets). It is a serious charge about which I do not think many people agree with you. If you accuse the Egyptian press of corruption, downgrading values, and combating morals, would you cite an example to substantiate these serious charges? If you mean Egyptian television programs, surely at least 90 percent of the people will disagree. If anything, viewers are bored by the majority of these cheerless and prosaic programs.

And in order not to do the capable television director Mrs Samiyah Sadiq injustice, I would like to say that she and all those who work under her have the talent and the ability to present the programs desired by the viewers. However, they were regrettably forced to present the programs that they are presenting for no reason other than that of yielding to outcries similar to those voiced by you, Abu al-Nasr, against television programs accusing them of

everything. Confronted by these outcries, the television officials had no choice but to be lavish in their presentation of boring programs. Enormous footage has been given to what are called religious programs with the aim of enlightening Muslims. However, it is certain that this objective has not been achieved, as the people who present these programs discuss issues that are of no concern whatsoever to the Muslim. Besides, these programs do not tackle the pressing issues; and I think that it is high time to see these problems tackled and confronted, as this would help save our Muslim youths from abnormal and extremist ideas which are detrimental to Islam.

The terrorism of those with loud voices, including some People's Assembly members, has not been confined to this. This terrorism has been allowed to achieve its objectives through the large-scale airing given of the so-called religious programs at all times and on all channels. Those with loud voices were lying in wait for comedy shows. Thus, the television management was forced to reduce the airing of these programs to pave the way for cancelling them. When these people attacked social drama series which tackle our daily problems, the television management agreed to reject such series and encouraged the presentation of melodramatic series and soap operas which caused the viewer to lose his senses and balance.

Furthermore, when these people launched their fiery campaigns against foreign programs and series which the viewer used to watch with bewilderment and admiration, the television management showed no reluctance or hesitation in succumbing to these campaigns. Hence, the television management has stopped presentation of these series. And when some of these programs are presented, you discover that the censor has satisfied his hostile inclinations regarding tearing scenes apart, pasting, and distorting them.

Mr General Guide, you have resorted to excesses in your criticism of and accusations against the Egyptian media. It is true that we criticize television a great deal. However, the reasons behind this criticism of ours are diametrically opposed to and conflict with the reasons that you have advanced in your criticism of television which has become the only basic source of entertainment for all households in Egypt.

If you demand that the television station confine its programs to the usual and customary religious programs, to prohibit the presentation of series, to ban the importation of foreign programs, to extricate smiles from viewers, and to disseminate an atmosphere of sadness so that people will hate their earthly lives and prepare themselves for the bliss of the hereafter; this is your right. However, we also have the same right to demand that the television management reconsider the idea of presenting this huge quantity of religious programs watched by no one, with the exception of those who present them, their family members, and some of their neighbors.

We also demand that the television station confine its religious programs to specific programs to be presented by knowledgeable Muslim scholars in the form of dialogues with those who have gone astray, who have been blinded by ignorance, and who have failed to understand their munificent religion. I also demand that the television management reject the terrorism of the rejectionists with loud voices. Besides, I demand that the smile, the song, drama series, good foreign television programs, and attractive cultural programs be returned to fill most of the time used by our three television channels.

These are my remarks on the statement made by the Muslim Brotherhood general guide after the issuance of the statement made by the religious scholars at the Al-Azhar Mosque. Once again, I would like to thank Muhammad Hamid Abu al-Nasr. I also wish him speedy recovery so that he can continue his activities in making public his opinions and enlightening the youth on the munificence of the Islamic religion, as the Muslim Brotherhood was established 60 years ago to enlighten people through wise behavior and good preaching.

The Muslim Brotherhood general guide is well aware that most extremist groups which call themselves Islamic do not approve of the Muslim Brotherhood's principles and consider the brotherhood's members along with all of us, be we rulers or ruled, as infidels. I believe that this attack on the Muslim Brotherhood should make it the first party to confront these terrorist groups and hold a dialogue with their leaders with the aim of saving them from their ignorance and also with a view to protecting the rest of our youths from their evils.

Opposition Party Delegation Returns From Libya

NC1901160689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1458 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA)—A delegation of representatives of Egyptian opposition parties returned to Cairo from Tripoli today, following a 4-day visit during which the delegation members met with a number of Libyan officials.

Ahmad al-Sabahi, Ummah Party leader and a member of the delegation which includes representatives of the various opposition parties, stated that the delegation told the Libyan leaders that the entire Egyptian people appreciates President Mubarak and trusts his patriotism and Arab affiliation, and rejects any insult directed at Egypt's president or people.

In an exclusive interview with MENA, Al-Sabahi said the delegation and the Libyan leaders reviewed recent Egyptian efforts to reunite the Arabs and maintain constant coordination with the Palestinian leaders, with the aim of restoring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and bringing about an independent Palestinian state. Egyptian efforts to establish a comprehensive and lasting peace between the two Muslim states of Iraq and Iran were also discussed, he added.

Official on Armored Vehicle, Aircraft Production

NC2001161489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1111 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jan (MENA)—A number of Arab and African countries have concluded contracts to purchase the Fahd armored vehicle, produced by the Arab Industrialization Organization [AIO], after this vehicle proved its durability and efficiency in comparison with similar competitive French, Chinese, Swiss, and German vehicles. This is a source of pride for Egyptian industry.

Eng Husayn 'Abd al-'Al, chairman of the board of directors of the Qadir factory for advanced industries, which produces the vehicle, has announced this, adding that the factory has contracts that will ensure production for the next 3 years. He said that the production of Fahd vehicles for command, rockets, mine-planting, and military police, as well as Fahd ambulance vehicles, completes the full range of these vehicles. He pointed out that the AIO has begun to increase the percentage of the parts manufactured in Egypt, with major parts of the vehicle being produced in Egypt, as compared to the past when 70 percent of the components had to be imported.

He said that the Fahd vehicle is currently being exported to Zaire, Sudan, the Sultanate of Oman, and Kuwait under signed contracts. A request by the UAE to purchase this vehicle is now under discussion following the successful completion by these vehicles of numerous tests and after experiments were conducted with other vehicles in Abu Dhabi. 'Abd al-'Al disclosed that the Jumhuriyah-Mark 6 training aircraft, which the Qadir factory for advanced industries is producing completely, has been developed. He said: We have developed the model Mark 8 and a number of African countries are purchasing it. Egypt is providing full overhaul services. He added: We have successfully produced smoke throwers used in the Fahd armored vehicles, including smoke throwers used against infrared rays.

Regarding the civilian products of the Qadir factory for advanced industries, 'Abd al-'Al explained that these are not basic products and that such items are produced in order to achieve a maximum production output of the equipment being manufactured. He noted that experiments are now under way to produce a completely plastic miniwashing machine, prior to putting these machines on the local market.

Libya

Salvation Front's Al-Muqaryif Interviewed

NC2301084689 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 15 Jan 89 p 12

[Report by Murat Bardakci: "Al-Qadhdhafi's Treacherous Plan"]

[Excerpt] Cairo (HURRIYET)—We have succeeded in interviewing Dr Muhammad Yusuf al-Muqaryif, the man who tops the "death list" that has been drawn up for the removal of Al-Qadhdhafi's opponents outside Libya. Al-Muqaryif, secretary general of the "National Front for the Salvation of Libya," which is the strongest of the organizations set up by expatriate Libyans opposed to Al-Qadhdhafi, made some "surprising" disclosures.

Al-Muqaryif claimed that Al-Qadhdhafi sent a team of terrorists to Turkey just before the United States bombarded Tripoli and Benghazi on 14 April 1986. He added that the terrorists were captured in Turkey before they were able to carry out their operations. Al-Muqaryif asserted: "However, they were not arrested, as a result of intervention by an influential Turkish minister. Instead, they were secretly deported."

Al-Muqaryif also warned that a number of Kurdish terrorists who have been trained in Libya are currently preparing to sabotage the oil pipeline between Kirkuk in Iraq and Yumurtalik in Turkey. He called on Turkey and Iraq to be vigilant.

Al-Muqaryif disclosed that the true name of Muhammad 'Ali Eizlatni [name as published], one of Al-Qadhdhafi's former pilots who was killed in the Etap Hotel in Istanbul on 23 December, was Muhammad Al-'Ati. He said: "This man was a terrorist who worked for Al-Qadhdhafi. He was killed by another organization." [passage omitted]

JANA Pledges Assistance to PANA

EA2301200489 Dakar PANA in English 1240 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, 23rd Jan—Libya's national news agency (JANA) has decided to apply the recent directives of Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to make the North Africa pool of the PAN-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY (PANA) operational. The pledge was made on Sunday by the JANA director, Mr Ramadan Abdullah, when he received Mrs Anna Makinda, the chairman of the PANA Inter-Governmental Council (IGC), who visited the Tripoli-based headquarters of the North African PANA pool in the company of the continental agency's director-general, Mr Auguste Mpassi-Muba.

The IGC chairman, who is Tanzania's minister of state for information, was in Libya to sensitise authorities on the need to back up PANA. She ended her visit on a note of satisfaction over Libya's pledge to strengthen and consolidate the continental news agency.

The director of JANA, Mr Ramadan, showed the visitors around the two-storied building which has been offered by the Libyan Government to house the North Africa pool headquarters. Part of the building contains six telexes donated by JANA to assure PANA's daily transmission of stories to the [PANA] Headquarters in Dakar, Senegal. The JANA director also pledged to make a technical study on possibilities of linking all the North

African news agencies to the pool headquarters to ensure the effective collection and distribution of PANA news in that part of the continent.

Mrs Makinda thanked Libya for giving PANA the facility and thanked the Libyan authorities for their effort to ensure that all African countries would be kept abreast of events in North Africa where "certain countries, such as Libya, are facing threats, blackmail, aggression and other destabilising acts".

"I hope that the pool in Tripoli will be as effective as the one in Lusaka which has helped in making the struggle of frontline states better understood," the minister added. The minister of state left Tripoli on Monday for Dar es Salaam.

Al-Qadhdahfi Meets Moroccan Parliamentary Group

LD2201204489 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1815 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received today a delegation of the Moroccan Chamber of Representatives that is currently paying a visit to the great Jamahiriyah for the meetings of the basic people's congresses. The leader of the Moroccan parliamentarian delegation expressed the Moroccan Arab people's pride in the material and moral achievements in the great Jamahiriyah, noting that the presence of the Moroccan parliamentary delegation in the Great Jamahiriyah now is to express the spirit of solidarity with the Libyan Arab people in their confrontation with the U.S. imperialist aggression, which should be considered a form of state terrorism, which was in reality not merely against the Libyan Arab people alone but against the Arab nation as a whole. He added: We promise that we will continue our struggle to set up Maghreb unity as a first step toward comprehensive Arab unity.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Tunisian Parliamentarians

LD2301102589 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0844 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, January 22, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of revolution received yesterday afternoon the delegation of the parliament of sisterly Tunisia who is currently on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah to express their solidarity with the Libyan Arab people in encountering the spate of U.S. savage terrorism.

The delegation has expressed their appreciation on the stances of the leader of revolution which are pan-Arabist rejecting the U.S. hegemony on the Arab homeland. The delegation has paid tribute to the revolutionary transformations and massive civilized achievements accomplished in the Great Jamahiriyah. The delegation has praised the direct democracy applied by the Libyan Arab people through its congresses and people's committees. [words indistinct] steps between the Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia.

Mauritania

Taya Pleased With Western Sahara Developments

AB2101213389 Paris AFP in French 2025 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Nouakchott, 21 Jan (AFP)—The Mauritanian head of state, Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taye, today expressed happiness over the recent positive development in the Western Sahara conflict following recent talks between King Hassan II and a Polisario Front delegation.

In a speech today in response to the New Year's wishes of the diplomatic corps accredited to Mauritania, Col Ould Taya said that the settlement of this conflict "will contribute to an important step forard on the path of the construction of the great Arab Maghreb," which, he stated, constitutes" a legitimate aspiration of all our peoples." Finally, he recalled that in this conflict his country has always adopted "an attitude characterized by frankness and sincerity toward the peoples of the subregion and their governments."

The Mauritanian president also expressed happiness with the climate of international detente and reaffirmed his support to the people of southern Africa and Palestine in their legitimate struggle to recover their freedom and their independence. Speaking about the world economic situation, Col Ould Taya said that the gap between the rich and the developing countries was widening further and that this reduces the effectiveness of the adjustments made by the poor countries to the constraints connected with the world economic environment which, he said, has been marked by the deterioration of trade terms and the weight of debts.

Morocco

King Hassan II Receives PLO's Salah Khalaf

LD2301205789 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Today at the Royal Palace in Marrakesh, His Majesty King Hassan II received Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], member of the PLO Central Committee, who was accompanied by Abu Marwan, the PLO representative in Rabat. The meeting was attended by Ahmed Osman, speaker of the House of Deputies; his majesty's advisers Ahmed Reda Guedira and Ahmed Ben Souda; and Colonel Major Abdelhak Kadiri.

Information Protocol With Algeria Signed

LD2301031489 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Mr Mohamed Ali Ammar, Algerian minister of information and culture, left Casablanca today following a working and friendly visit to Morocco, during which he was received by His Majesty King Hassan II, may God give him victory. The visit was marked by the

signing of a protocol for an agreement of cooperation between Morocco and Algeria in the information field. Prior to the Algerian official's departure from Morocco, he gave a statement to the press in which he said:

[Begin Ammar recording] The first observation on this agreement or this document is the fact that such a thing will (?link) the two fraternal peoples and epitomize the determination of the two leaders—His Majesty King Hassan II and His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid—to create channels to further link, in a solid and continuous manner, these peoples which are linked by more than one bond. This is the first observation.

The second observation is that this agreement is a general framework which will enable all information organs in both fraternal Morocco and Algeria to work energically and actively to play a role in good and suitable conditions and to perform their duties, as well as to achieve the goal which we are all aspiring for, which is the consolidation of these channels which solidly link Algeria and fraternal Morocco and Morocco with fraternal Algeria. It also enables us to use information—which we look upon as a weapon—as a weapon in the service of the Arab Maghreb.

Those are, in brief, the first things with which such an agreement will bind us. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Thus, Mr Driss Basri, minister of interior and information; and Mohamed Ali Ammar, the Algerian minister of information and culture, in the Wiliya Building in Casablanca this morning signed the protocol of an agreement for cooperation in the field of information. The agreement includes cooperation in the fields of radio, television, news agencies, cinematographic production, and exchange of expertise.

This agreement, which is aimed at bolstering pillars of cooperation between the Kingdom of Morocco and the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria in the information field, further stipulates the bolstering of brotherly and vocational relations between those working in the information field in the two countries, as well as the exchange of news and information, and the pursuit of everything which will consolidate bonds of brotherhood between the two peoples. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Air Raids Intensified Against Al-Nasir 'Outlaws'

EA2301185789 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] A statement made by Brigadier General Muhammad Uthman Malik, the Armed Forces' official spokesman, reveal that the Armed Forces have intensified air raids against the outlaws in the eastern Al-Nasir area because of obstacles that hinder the advance of mobile units on land. He said the Armed Forces are in full control in the various regions of the south. He affirmed the heroic resistance of Al-Nasir area officers and NCO's who faced the difficult situation with bravery, held their positions, and managed to defend them. Brigadier Malik added that the Armed Forces are monitoring outlaw concentrations near Torit town and said that they would be dispersed in the near future.

SUNA Reports Downed Aircraft F-6 Fighter

EA2301120089 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 22 Jan (SUNA)—South Sudan rebel forces shot down a Sudanese Army F-6 [an SPLA radio report stated the downed plane was a MiG-23] fighter plane yesterday morning over Nasir city in Upper Nile Province, killing its pilot, the Sudanese Army said.

The statement put out by the Army and broadcast by the official radio in the form of an obituary said the F-6 was shot down by a SAM-7 while the pilot, Mukhtar Muhammadayn, was making his ninth air raid on the rebel forces in 2 days. The fighter plane was shot by a SAM-7 and exploded in mid-air over the city, killing the pilot, the Army said.

According to the statement, the forces of Nasir City, which is under siege by the SPLA of Col John Garang, mounted successful counteroffensives on Garang forces prior to the repeated air raids by Col Mukhtar. But because of the exchange of fire between the government forces guarding Nasir and John Garang's forces, the citizens of Nasir left the city and took refuge at the outskirts of the provincial capital, Malakal.

The SPLA is apparently stepping up its operations against the central government forces to persuade Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi to join the Democratic Unionist Party in opening a dialogue with the movement to end the now 5-year old civil war in the South. [passage omitted]

Al-Mahdi Favors Prolonging Constituent Assembly

LD2301183989 Khartoum SUNA in English 1718 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum Jan. 23 (SUNA)—Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has proposed to the Constituent Assembly to prolong its delegation term with aim at continuing peace efforts and holding the constitutional conference.

He said in statement before the first session of the assembly that the peace question and had witnessed development while the political scene also witnessed an opposition to the governmental decisions referring to the demonstrations occured last December due the increase of commodities prices. [sentence as received]

He confirmed that the Sudan is first country in Third World which respect the human rights adding that his government was committed to the charters top of them the National Accord Charter concluded between the

three major parties (Umma, Democratic Unionist and Islamic National Front parties) and the four-year economic recovery programme (?designed) by the constitutional bodies.

Al-Mahdi also confirmed his government's committment to [word indistinct] the September laws imposed by the defunct regime of May and the application of correct Islamic laws that put in consideration the non Muslims rights.

The premier said that the government will work to complete the state organs after the approval of local and regional and national capital laws.

He pointed out that the government will continue its nonaligned foreign policy that will help the development of relations with the other countries.

On the peace issue Al-Mahdi said that peace is national and religious duty for Muslims and Christians adding that the citizens in the south are in need of relief supplies.

He said that the ongoing war in the south was behind the food and health crisis the southern Sudan.

DUP Leader on Party's Government Pullout
PM1801155588 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Jan 89 p 5

[Interview with Democratic Unionist Party leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani by Muhammad Ahmad Hisham in Khartoum; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Hisham] The Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] decision to withdraw from the government came as a big surprise, particulary as, 1 or 2 days before the withdrawal, you expressed support for Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's steps to convene a constitutional conference.

[Al-Mirghani] The DUP statement announcing the withdrawal gave clear reasons for that. They were objective national reasons. The party voiced the view that the steps toward peace were not up to the level required to end the fighting and restore stability and security as hoped. Furthermore, the decision to withdraw from the government came after it transpired, in the wake of several developments, that it was impossible to hold the preparatory meeting for the constitutional conference on the date agreed under the "Sudanese peace initiative," namely 31 December 1988.

[Hisham] What are the differences between you and the government in connection with the peace initiative and how, in your view, could they be resolved?

[Al-Mirghani] The Sudanese peace initiative agreement was signed on last 16 November. On 17 November the masses staged processions and marches in full support of the Sudanese peace initiative. The political forces, establishments, parties, and unions—more than 70 in all—met and formed a national committee to support the initiative. The general belief was that the government would announce its support for the initiative and would then facilitate the steps to follow, prior to the prepatory meeting that would pave the way for a national constitutional conference. The government, however, did not do that even though the prime minister expressed support for the initiative.

Because the government did not declare support for the initiative it was impossible to hold the preparatory meeting to pave the way for a constitutional conference.

This situation can be surmounted if the government clearly recognizes the Sudanese peace initiative. Practical steps would then be taken to establish peace. [passage omitted]

[Hisham] Some people believe that your withdrawal from the government weakens the drive toward peace, because procedural matters are up to the government in the end.

[Al-Mirghani] Having the DUP in opposition does not weaken the peace momentum. In fact it strengthens and intensifies the drive toward the target. It enables the party to concentrate fully on this matter, which the party considers a fateful issue for the country and the people. Without peace it is difficult to achieve anything else. [passage omitted]

[Hisham] Some circles claim that the peace initiative was a foreign endeavor. How do you intepret that claim, and where did it originate?

[Al-Mirghani] Peace is above all a Sudanese demand and it is Sudan's top cause. It was one of the slogans of the April 1985 popular uprising. Those who attended the Addis Ababa talks were Sudanese. When the Sudanese peace initiative was signed, demonstrations and processions were staged in the form of a new popular uprising hailing the initiative as a Sudanese popular achievement. [passage omitted]

It was a Sudanese initiative overwhelmingly supported by the people in Sudan and also supported by all regional and international circles.

[Hisham] Some people hold the view that the timing of your withdrawal from the government could bring down the democratic regime. Does your party want a change of regime by ways other than constitutional channels?

[Al-Mirghani] The democratic regime inherited bad economic conditions and it inherited the war in the south. It was, and still is, our conviction that the way out of this situation lies in ending the war and establishing peace. We have urged the formation of a government of national reconciliation, with a specific program, within

the framework of the democratic system, with representatives from the parties and political forces in the constituent assembly. [passage omitted]

[Hisham] There is talk about efforts made to get you back into government. What is your position on that, and what are your terms for returning to the government?

[Al-Mirghani] Our efforts and the efforts of others are geared toward establishing peace. That is why we say: Let there be peace first, then we will consider the next step.

[Hisham] The statement issued on the DUP's withdrawal from the government referred to Sudan's foreign policy. What is meant by that, and what do you not like about the current policy?

[Al-Mirghani] Our foreign policy is one of staying out of any kind of bloc. Sudan is a founder of the Arab League and the OAU. Internationally it was one of the authors of of the nonaligned states' charter in Bandung. That is why we say that Sudan's interests should be above all other considerations and we should cooperate with all on that basis. [passage omitted]

Repatriation of Chadian Forces Confirmed
EA1801114889 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 18th January—The Armed Forces' official spokesman has confirmed that the 900-strong troops of Chadian opposition leader, Ibn Oumar, have been fully repatriated in accordance with an agreement between Sudan and Chad. The spokesman, in a statement yesterday, dismissed as "untrue" news reports speaking of foreign troops presence in Sudanese territories. He pointed out that the Sudanese Armed Forces had accompanied Ibn Oumar's troops up to Bahai area inside Chad, where they have been received by the Chadian Government and, later Chadian mass media have confirmed the repatriation.

Bahrain

Amir Congratulates George Bush on Inauguration

JN2101083289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0745 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Manama, 21 Jan (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, has sent a congratulatory cable to U.S. President George Bush on the occasion of his inauguration as president of the United States. In his cable, Shaykh 'Isa congratulated Bush and wished him good health, happiness, and success; Bahraini-American relations further progress and development; and the American people more progress, prosperity, and opulence during his term.

Kuwait

Reportage on Visit of Somalian President Barre

Confers With Prime Minister

LD2101183889 Kuwait KUNA in English 1700 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 21 (KUNA)—H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah Saturday evening paid a visit to his brother visiting Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre at his residence in Al-Salam palace.

The audience was attended by the head of the mission of honour, Commerce and Industry Minister Faysal 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Khalid.

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir also called on President Barre at his residence in Al-Salam Palace here later the same evening.

Present during the encounter was the head of the mission of honour, Commerce and Industry Minister Faysal 'Abd al-Razaq al-Khalid.

Holds 'Cordial Talks'

LD2201123289 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] At 1000 today His Excellency Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre, president of the fraternal Somali Democratic Republic, visited his brother His Highness the Amir at (Bayan) Palace, where official talks were held.

The minister for Amiri Court Affairs stated that the talks dealt with Arab and African issues in light of international developments.

The talks were dominated by a cordial atmosphere characterized by understanding and fraternal spirit.

Assesses Talks

LD2301111989 Kuwait KUNA in English 0932 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 23 (KUNA)—Somali Minister of Information and Tourism Dr. Abdurashid Ahmed Monday said the talk between his highness the amir and president Mohammed Siad Barre focused on bilateral and Islamic issues.

Abdurashid hailed, during a meeting with a number of press reporters here Monday, the brave stands of his highness the amir, particularly his historic address at the UN General Assembly last September. The minister expressed gratitude for the invaluable aid extended by Kuwait to Somali people.

Coordination between Somalia and Kuwait has been going on at highest levels in respect with establishment of joint ventures, he said, noting this issue was discussed by his highness the amir and Somali president.

He noted that his country has recently adopted various steps toward economic open policy, granted the public sector wide opportunities coupled with large guarantees, and encouraged foreign investment in areas of tourism and trade cooperation.

He added that Somalia has tremendous investment opportunities in areas of agriculture, animal and fish resources.

Abdurashid, who described the settling of the Lebanese crisis as a "tough mission", voiced confidence that prudence and diplomacy of Kuwait Deputy Premier Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad would yield fruitful results.

The Somali official welcomed the declaration of the independent Palestinian (?state), hoping the U.S.-PLO contacts would bring about positive results in the Mideast conflict.

Over the possibility of holding an ordinary Arab summit, Dr. Aburashid cited some complex problems which are still obstructing the holding of the summit, including the Lebanese crisis "which has been threatening Arab solidarity day after day".

He said Somalia and Ethiopia have taken a series of moves aimed at normalizing relations, formed a ministerial commission, and agreed on halting media campaigns and other major steps.

Somalia decided to settle the problem with Ethiopia peacefully, and urged immigrants to return home to take part in building up their national economy, noting that his country backs all peoples' rights to self-determination.

He dismissed as false foreign media attacks against his country and denied the reports of the British Broadcasting Corporation that Somalia violated human rights and used chemical weapons.

Departs 23 Jan

LD2301112289 Kuwait KUNA in English 0930 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 23 (KUNA)—Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre and the accompanying delegations left here Monday after a three day official visit.

The Somali leader was seen off at the airport by his highness the amir, his highness the crown prince and prime minister, deputy premier and foreign minister, minister of the amiri diwan affairs and other ministers and senior state officials.

Oman

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives on Official Visit 21 Jan

JN2301113189 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1052 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Muscat, 23 Jan (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Muscat at noon today on a 3-day official visit to the Sultanate of Oman. The Palestinian leader was accorded an official reception. Thuwayni ibn Shihab, the special representative of His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, led those who received 'Arafat. Yasir 'Arafat will hold talks with His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id and senior Omani officials on bilateral relations and ways to strengthen and develop them in addition to the latest developments in the Palestine question.

Meets With Sultan Qabus

JN2301134889 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] This afternoon, His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id received Mr Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, now visiting the country. They discussed the latest Palestinian developments and exchanged views on a number of topical subjects with special emphasis on the Middle East.

'Arafat expressed to his majesty the sultan his heartfelt thanks for his sustained support for the Palestinian cause.

Present at the meeting were His Highness Thuwayni ibn Shihab, His Majesty Sultan Qabus' special representative; Interior Minister Badr ibn Sa'ud ibn Harib; Information Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rawwas; and His Excellency Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, state minister for foreign affairs. 'Arafat's delegation was also present.

Sultan Qabus Meets French Naval Commander

JN2301144989 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] This afternoon, His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id received Admiral Labouerie, commander of the French naval force in the Indian Ocean. Present at the meeting were Staff Major General Hamid ibn Sa'id al-'Awfi, Armed Forces chief of staff, and the French ambassador to Oman.

The commander of the French naval force earlier called on His Highness Fahr ibn Taymur Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for security and defense. They discussed matters of common interest to the two friendly countries. The French ambassador was present.

Diplomatic Relations With Chad Established 21 Jan

JN2101154689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Muscat, 21 Jan (WAKH)—Oman and Chad have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the level of ambassador as of today. In a joint statement issued in both countries today, Oman and Chad expressed the hope that these diplomatic relations will promote friendship and joint cooperation in the interests of both countries.

United Arab Emirates

Defense Minister Receives U.S. Military Commander

JN2101111889 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid Al Maktum, minister of defense, received in his office this morning General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the U.S. central forces [title as heard], who is currently visiting the country. Views on a number of technical military subjects were exchanged and the current situation in the region was reviewed.

The meeting was attended by Brigadier General Shaykh Muhammad 'Ubayd Al Maktum, under secretary of the ministry of defense; David Lyle Mack, the U.S. ambassador to the state; and members of the military delegation accompanying the guest.

President Leaves for Pakistan 24 Jan

JN2401102789 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0325 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 Jan (WAKH)—UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan left Abu Dhabi today for Karachi on a visit to Pakistan.

WAM said that during the visit, Shaykh Zayid will meet with Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and with Prime Minister Mrs Benazir Bhutto to hold consultations and exchange views on current international and Islamic issues of common interest and on bilateral cooperation.

'Crisis' in Relations With Sudan Reportedly Ends

PM2401115289 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Jan 89 p 1

[Unattributed report: "UAE-Sudan Embassy Crisis Resolved"]

[Excerpt] Khartoum, London—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Sudanese responsible sources have confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that UAE-Sudan contacts

and mediations by other Arab sides have succeeded in containing the sudden crisis which occurred between the two countries when the UAE recalled its ambassador from Khartoum in protest against a Sudanese court's decision to release the man accused of storming the UAE embassy in Khartoum and holding the ambassador and a number of employees there.

The sources said that Sudan sent a clarification to UAE officials explaining the circumstances of the release of the Sudanese charged with storming the embassy and hlding the ambassador, emphasizing that the accused, 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahman 'Abdallah, will soon face trial under current laws.

They added that UAE officials understand the Sudanese position and that the UAE ambassador will return to Khartoum shortly. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

World Bank Delegation Arrives for Talks

JN2301144389 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] A World Bank team arrived in Sanaa today. The delegation is headed by (Eduardo Shoesis), chief of the Middle East and North Africa section at the World Bank. The delegation will join the talks between our country and the World Bank due to be held in Sanaa this week.

The World Bank official told SABA that areas of bilateral cooperation will be addressed in the talks.

On hand to welcome him were Dr Tahir al-Sa'id, deputy development minister and deputy chief of the Central Planning Organ, and a number of other officials.

Talks Begin

JN2301101689 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Annual talks between our country and the World Bank got under way at the Central Planning Organ today. Our country's team is led by Finance Minister 'Alawi al-Salami. (Arby Stonsink) chief of the 3rd region for Europe and the Middle East and North Africa at the Bank is heading the Bank's delegation.

The brother minister welcomed the head and members of the World Bank's delegation, emphasizing that the annual meetings provide an excellent opportunity for an exchange of views on economic and social issues of international dimensions. He noted the existing cooperation between our country and the Bank and the latter's contribution to funding certain development projects. He also outlined the economic policies pursued by the government over the past few years and pointed out that they produced positive results, the most outstanding of which has been a fall in the state budget's deficit.

The finance minister said the meetings will provide an opportunity to review the problems that impede efficient implementation of joint projects. He stressed the need to expand cooperation with the international financing facility and for our country to avail itself of the services provided by the World Bank affiliated Investment Corporation. The minister hoped the annual meetings will be crowned with success.

For his part, the World Bank delegation's head expressed satisfaction with the existing cooperation between our country and the Bank and its various bodies and looked forward to further ties. He lauded the economic and development achievements in our country and the existing cooperation with the World Bank. He said he is confident the meetings will yield fruitful results that should boost cooperation between our country and the World Bank.

The two sides then proceeded to review the topics on the agenda of the annual meeting related to the projects in which the World Bank is playing a funding role.

The opening round of talks was attended by Dr Tahir al-Sa'id, deputy development minister and deputy chief of the Central Planning Organ; engineer Muqbil Ahmad Muqbil, undersecretary at the Agriculture and Fisheries Ministry; Husayn al-Ahjari, underscretary at the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reform; Muhiddin al-Dibbi, undersecretary at the Ministry of Economy, Supply and Trade; as well as other officials of the Central Planning Organ. The talks were also attended by the World Bank delegation.

Loan Approved for Electricity Link With PDRY

JN1801181789 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The Cabinet held its regular session at 0930 today under Brother Dr Muhammad Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister and Standing Committee member. [passage omitted]

The cabinet approved the loan agreement with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development for 8.6 million Kuwaiti dinars, equivalent to 285,674,800 [YAR] riyals, to contribute to financing the electricity link project between the two parts of the homeland. The cabinet also decided to refer the agreement to the Consultative Council to complete the constitutional procedures. [passage omitted]

124 Iranian POW's Depart for Tehran 24 Jan

JN2401100589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 24 Jan (INA)—One hundred and twenty-four Iranian prisoners of war, representing the second and last batch of the 255 POW's whom President Saddam Husayn ordered released, left Baghdad for Tehran this morning aboard a plane chartered by the International Committee of the Red Cross. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Visit of Venezuelan President-Elect

Arrives With Delegation

JN1801204589 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Venezuelan President-Elect Carlos Andres Perez arrived in Baghdad this evening at the head of a delegation on a 2-day visit to Iraq as part of his trip in the region.

The Venezuelan president-elect was received at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim, oil minister; and the Foreign Ministry under secretary.

The delegation accompanying the Venezuelan president-elect comprises Energy and Mines Minister Julio Cesar Gil and a number of advisers and officials.

Discusses OPEC With President

JN1901114289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received Venezuelan President-Elect Carlos Andres Perez and his accompanying delegation this morning.

The talks dealt with the OPEC situation and the need for solidarity within the organization and commitment to its resolutions in the joint interests of its member states and in order to ensure a balance in the interests of producers and consumers. The two presidents warned against any attempt to refrain from full commitment to the OPEC resolutions, especially those concerning production quotas.

President Saddam Husayn stressed to the Venezuelan president-elect that since the seventies, Iraq has been committed to a firm and long-term production and pricing policy. Iraq believes it is necessary for OPEC member states to maintain oil as a basic source of energy in the world, in a way that will not drive consumer countries to search for alternatives due to unobjective and uneconomic oil prices.

The two presidents agreed on the importance of holding a new OPEC summit meeting this year provided that it is carefully prepared for by OPEC oil ministers.

The talks also dealt with the Iraq-Iran negotiations, with President Saddam Husayn explaining the firm and principled stand which Iraq has always adopted; namely, the call for a lasting and comprehensive peace.

The talks also dealt with promoting bilateral relations between Iraq and Venezuela to serve the joint interest of the two countries and to consolidate cooperation among the Third World countries.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim, minister of oil.

Confers With Ramadan

JN1901171089 Baghdad INA in English 1450 GMT 19 Jan 89

Baghdad, Jan. 19, INA—Member of the Revolution Command Council, First Deputy Premier Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, received here today the Venezuelan President-Elect Carlos Andres Perez and his accompanying delegation.

They discussed relations between the two friendly countries in all fields, and prospects of developing them in service of their joint interest, and confirmation of significance of coordination and joint work for preserving unity of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Expresses 'Full Satisfaction'

JN1901171489 Baghdad INA in English 1510 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 19, INA—Venezuelan President-Elect Carlos Andres Perez expressed full satisfaction over results of his talks with President Saddam Husayn and senior Iraqi officials.

Speaking at a press conference before leaving Baghdad after a two-day visit to Iraq, President Perez said "Our views were identical on the necessity of defending OPEC's prices on the basis of interests of the member states and other non-OPEC countries in addition to taking into consideration interests of consuming states."

He added that Gulf oil countries, Algeria and other parties in OPEC are of the view of holding a summit conference to mark the 30th anniversary of founding OPEC expressing hope that this occasion would be an opportunity of signing a peace agreement between Iraq and Iran.

The Venezuelan president-elect expressed congratulations on reaching a ceasefire agreement between Iraq and Iran and wished that the current state of no war would be surmounted by concluding a peace agreement between the two sides. "We tabled this matter in Tehran and Baghdad benefitting from our neutral attitude in the Iraq-Iran war", he pointed out.

On his meeting with Palestinian Leader Yasir 'Arafat, President Perez said he had expressed to Mr. 'Arafat satisfaction over the announcement of the Palestine Liberation Organization and backing to the rights of the Palestinian people including the establishment of their independent state.

Cooperation Talks With Sudanese Delegation Begin

JN1601164789 Baghdad INA in English 1615 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 16, INA—Meetings of the 5th session of the Iraqi-Sudanese joint committee for economic, trade and technical coperation began at the Ministry of Trade today.

The committee, from which emanated two ad hoc committees for trade exchange and economic and technical cooperation, discussed definition of value of trade-exchanges between the two countries and means of enhancing cooperation in the fields of transport, agriculture, industry, services and exchange of expertise, besides training.

The committee reviewed results of implementing the minutes of the 4th session of the committee held in Khartoum in December 1986.

The Iraqi side, which was headed by director general of Economic External Relations Department at the Trade Ministry, comprised representatives from Ministries of Industry and Military Industrialization, Finance, Trade, Transport and Communications, in addition to the Central Bank, Al-Rafidayn Bank and Iraqi Airways.

The Sudanese side, headed by Mr 'Umar Ma'rik Abu Zayd, under-secretary of the Ministry of Economy and External Trade, comprised representatives from a number of ministries and institutions.

Joint Minutes Signed

JN1901191989 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jan (INA)—Iraq and Sudan signed the joint minutes of the meetings of the sixth session [as received] of the Iraqi-Sudanese joint committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation today. The minutes call for cooperating in the trade exchange, implementing the equitable deal for the present year amounting to $40 million—$20 million for each country—and expanding and developing the exports outside the framework of this deal. According to the deal, Iraq will export medicines, medical appliances, dates, electrical appliances, agricultural machinery and spare parts, cement, and phosphatic and nitrogenous fertilizers. Iraq will import from Sudan cotton, textiles, beans, vegetable oil, table salt, glue, and half-manufactured cow leathers.

According to the minutes, the Iraqi side will organize training courses for Sudanese technicians in the fields of horticulture and growing palm trees. The minutes also call for bilateral cooperation in agricultural development, irrigation, and land reclamation.

The minutes were signed for the Iraqi side by the director general of the Foreign Economic Relations at the Trade Ministry and for the Sudanese side they were signed by 'Umar Mubarak Abu Zayd, first undersecretary at the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade.

Jordanian Transport Minister Meets With Ramadan

JN1801171389 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister, received in his office today Eng Khalid al-Haj Hasan, minister of transportation and communications. Muhammad Hamzah, Iraqi minister of transport and communications attended. They discussed bilateral relations, the importance of bolstering them, and the best means of implementing the resolutions of the higher committee for joint cooperation, especially in the fields of transport and communications.

Eng al-Haj Hasan conveyed to Ramadan the greetings of Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. He also reviewed decisions reached by the general board of the Iraqi-Jordanian Company for Land Transportation to boost the company's operations. Ramadan affirmed the importance of bolstering the march of joint cooperation in the interests of the Jordanian and Iraqi peoples.

Meanwhile, the transportation and communications minister met with his Iraqi counterpart today to discuss bilateral relations and cooperation in the field of transporting Iraqi oil products via Al-'Aqabah port. The Iraqi minister stressed that priority will be given to the export of these products via Al-'Aqabah port, especially after the suspension of Iraqi crude oil exports by truck.

The meeting was attended by the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad and members of the Jordanian delegation.

Departs 18 Jan

JN1901092589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jan (INA)—Khalid al-Haj Hasan, Jordanian minister of transportation and communications, left Baghdad last night after a visit of several days to Iraq. He headed his country's side to the meetings of the general board of the Iraqi-Jordanian company for land transportation, which concluded its meetings here yesterday.

Book Reveals Appeals to India To Bomb Pakistan
TA2401121389 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 24 Jan 89 p 2

[Report by Ilan Kfir and London-based correspondent Victor Levi]

[Text] "Israel has attempted three times in the past to persuade the Indian Government to carry out a joint attack on Pakistan's two nuclear reactors in Kahuta and in Pinstech. The Indians refused, but their decision will soon change, in accordance with the rate of progress of its neighbor's nuclear program."

This new revelation appears in a book published in London entitled "Nuclear Rivals in the Middle East." The book ties the Israeli appeal to India with the fact that former Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar 'Ali Bhutto used Libyan financing to produce the "first Islamic atomic bomb."

In addition, the book states that despite poor relations between Libya and Egypt, the Al-Qadhdhafi regime has maintained its contacts with Egyptian nuclear scientists, and many of them have settled in Tripoli. The author, Shiham Bathiya [name as published], claims that if relations between the two countries improve, these scientists will provide the infrastructure for a pan-Arab nuclear industry. Shamir and Arens sent a message to New Delhi yesterday, stating that Israel is interested in setting up full diplomatic relations with the Indian Government. The message was delivered through a delegation of senior Indian journalists, who are the guests of the Foreign Ministry.

Shamir told the delegation that "Israel feels great affection and respect for the ancient people of India. If your government agrees, we are prepared to commence cultural contacts and later expand them to full diplomatic relations."

Arens: Talks With Jordan Only Solution
TA2301191289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens says direct talks between Israel and Jordan is the only way to solve the Palestinian problem. Arens was speaking to Hadassah and young Judaea representatives this afternoon in Jerusalem. The president of the Hadassah Women's Zionist Organization rejected the call by the foreign minister for the organization to renew its medical services in Hebron. Mark Weiss reports:

[Begin recording] [Weiss] Arens told the audience that Israel will continue to reject the idea of talks with the PLO despite international pressure. The foreign minister said the only way to solve the Palestinian problem is for direct talks between Israel and Jordan.

[Arens] If we want to talk with the Palestinians, if we want to address their problem, we should be talking to the king of Jordan, to the government of Jordan; a government that insisted to say that it is in a state of war with Israel. It is inconceivable that we could normalize the situation in the Middle East until such time as we have normalized our relationship with them. There is only one problem: the king is afraid to talk. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Rabin Details Phased Plan for Territories
TA2001193389 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Yoni Ben-Menahem; date and place not given—videotaped in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Rabin] What I can see today as constituting the central stages are tranquility and elections by the inhabitants of the territories of inhabitants of the territories, who will represent them in negotiations with Israel alone, with the aim of establishing the self-rule authority that will run their affairs while the Jewish settlements continue to exist and while leaving security matters in Israel's hands. Later we will reach negotiations on the final solution, be it in the form of a confederation with Jordan, avoiding the problem of borders, or even by way of a federation with Israel—and what is wrong with that? Switzerland, for instance, is made up of several cantons: one Italian, another French.

[Ben-Menahem] Sir, regarding the elections, how will they be conducted? How do you envision it? Will the process be held under international auspices, under the supervision of a neutral body, or under Israeli inspection?

[Rabin] Look, the main thing that concerns me is that our partner to the solution of the problem of the territories' inhabitants should be the residents of the territories themselves.

[Ben-Menahem] Can you address...

[Rabin, interrupting] I believe the elections should be held in a calm atmosphere, which is to say without violence. Second, I believe that they should be held under Israeli supervision, but I will be prepared to discuss some neutral body, although never the United Nations.

[Ben-Menahem] What do you regard as a neutral body?

[Rabin] I do not know, and it does not matter right now. The main thing is that free elections should be held, in which the residents of the territories will elect from their own people, namely current residents of the territories, the representation. The object of these elections is likewise obvious: to conduct negotiations with Israel.

[Ben-Menahem] Sir, let me ask you something. You have met with a large number of Palestinian personalities. Whom do you regard as a potential representative of the Palestinians, possible candidates to run in these elections? Could you possibly give us the name of one or two people as an example?

[Rabin] We will not conduct negotiations with the body called the PLO, whose headquarters is in Tunis. Yet whoever is elected from among the inhabitants of the territories, regardless of his views, will be a partner to negotiations.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr Minister, what was it that made you come out with this idea precisely at this stage? Why did you not raise it several months ago? Why are you suggesting it now, 15 months after the outbreak of the uprising?

[Rabin] First of all, I started raising it in preliminary contacts with Palestinian residents as far back as 4 years ago. I kept trying to push it these past 4 years. In the stage that preceded the Knesset elections, I even raised the idea of the elections as part...

[Ben-Menahem, interrupting] W at novelties are you introducing now?

[Rabin] Why have I taken so long? Well, now we have a new government in Israel and a new administration in the United States. I believe that the conditions to suggest it now have been created, both from the point of view of the Israeli Government and from the point of view of the international political arena. At the same time, I believe it is important also for the inhabitants of the territories, to whom I am appealing via Israel Television.

[Ben-Menahem] In Arabic.

[Rabin] Yes, in Arabic. I am telling them: I want you to know that we are ready to talk to you. You are the partners to negotiations. The time has come for you to want more than to throw rocks. Abandon that path! Sit down and negotiate with us! But by the same token, if you refuse to resolve our conflict by way of negotiations and pursue violence, we will employ all the force against you. We are patient, and we will be persistent until we stem the violence in the territories.

[Ben-Menahem] As a means of promoting the idea of elections, are you currently contemplating the release of some of the detained leaders so that they could participate in the election process?

[Rabin] We will take a favorable look at the possibility of releasing those who are prepared to accept this path.

[Ben-Menahem] Sir, in the next few days Faysal al-Husayni will be released from his 6-month administrative detention. Do you view him as a partner for negotiations, just to give an example?

[Rabin] I will view any Palestinian resident of the territories as a potential partner. The problem is not so much who he is as what he is prepared to do.

Rabin Explains Rationale

TA2001200289 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari in the studio—live]

[Text] [Ya'ari] Good evening, Mr Defense Minister.

[Rabin] Good evening to you, too.

[Ya'ari] Did you consult with the prime minister before outlining your plan?

[Rabin] I presented my views as personal and believed that the timing was essential. We are now several months away from Jordan's disengagement from the political process, at least administrative and legal disengagement from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. The setting up of a government in Israel is now over and today a new administration is entering office in the United States. I always believed that Israel must, on the one hand, extend its hand in a peaceful gesture—although not at all costs and only under certain circumstances—and that on the other hand, if our outstretched hand is rejected and if the answer to our gesture is violence of any type, we should respond with force with the IDF's power.

[Ya'ari] Let us break down the proposal and discuss the component that I regard as central, although I may be mistaken. You have been talking about elections for a representational institution for the inhabitants of the territories, but not municipal elections. Could you elaborate and clarify?

[Rabin] Look, what I suggested is anchored in the government's basic guidelines and in the principles of the Camp David agreement. We are talking right now, as the first stage, of calm. It is inconceivable that elections will be held while violence is raging. Second, inhabitants of the territories will be elected by the inhabitants of the territories. They will elect not a municipal council but a political representation to stand for the 1.5 million Palestinians residing in the territories, on the condition that its goal is to reach negotiations.

Thus that representation will ultimately serve as the nucleus for the self-rule authority once expanded autonomy is established or once any other interim arrangement takes effect. That representation, together with Jordan, will constitute our partner to negotiations for peace along our eastern border, because that peace cannot be attained without a partnership between the Jordanians and a representation of the inhabitants of the territories.

[Ya'ari] I have a question. You are actually talking about a package deal, which in essence calls for calm as the preliminary stage, a sort of hallway leading to the living room, followed by elections. My question is going to be put very bluntly: Would you be prepared to permit people who are currently members of the Unified National Command of the Uprising in the territories to discuss that first stage with you and then make sure that they get themselves elected to the representational body that you have mentioned?

[Rabin] I regard any inhabitant of the areas of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, irrespective of his political views, as eligible to be elected to that representation, whose objective and the purpose of whose election is to conduct negotiations with Israel on the basis of an interim period of expanded autonomy, a self-rule authority that would run the Palestinians' affairs in the territories on condition that the Jewish settlements remained where they are and continue as Israeli settlements, and that the IDF handled security matters in the territories.

After that transitional period or the interim arrangement, they would be partners to the decision on determining the final status of the territories and peace along our eastern border. That peace would either be attained with Jordan—and let us leave aside the question of border lines at this point—or even through a partnership with us. There is no reason why there should not be a Palestinian entity in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza with links to Israel. At the moment, from the economic standpoint, the local inhabitants' existence depends on work here.

[Ya'ari] But the only chance that such a program would be acceptable to the inhabitants of the territories is that the PLO would give them the go ahead to pursue it. One of the questions people associated with the PLO asked me already today was whether or not you plan to allow political or partisan activity toward such elections in the territories.

[Rabin] After the moves and general drift we are going to embark on are concluded and we have agreed on elections and on expanded autonomy for a transition period, and after a later discussion on the final status and attainment of peace along our eastern border, each side will be permitted to consult with whomever it wants. My main concern is to make sure that our partner to peace negotiations is the inhabitants of the territories, no one else.

[Ya'ari] But they are going to Tunis?

[Rabin] As long as they constitute the representation, elected for and by the inhabitants of the territories, let them consult with Egypt, Jordan, or others. Yet they will be the interlocutors; they will be the addressees with whom we should reach an understanding and an agreement. I think this answers the question.

[Ya'ari] The way I see it, judging by my impression of how they view things right now, they think: If the intention is to cut us off from the PLO, then—and I quote important Arab personalities in the territories—your plan will be a nonstarter [preceding word in English]. It cannot catch on, and it is leading nowhere. If you mean the PLO to sanction it and give the go-ahead to people in the territories to engage in the very limited move of elections—after all, we are not talking about the final settlement—then they would like to hear you say so.

[Rabin] My intention is to present a four-stage plan: calm, elections, transitional period, a permanent settlement for peace. I firmly object to negotiations with the PLO as a body, as an organization. I do not care what the political views of an inhabitant of the territories who will be elected to or who will elect his own representation for negotiations with us will be, because the PLO's position is founded on three principles: self-determination, a Palestinian state between Israel and Jordan, and the right of return.

The latter refers to refugees residing outside Eretz Yisra'el as it was during the British mandate. I suggest that an international conference be held to solve the refugee problem after we have reached an agreement and after the interim period begins. That conference will resolve the problem of the refugees from 1948—Jews and Palestinians alike.

[Ya'ari] In view of the negative reaction that can currently be heard from the Palestinian side, do you think that this plan could obtain support in the Inner Cabinet and win a Cabinet majority vote, or can it be accepted by the new administration in Washington—which, in fact, is the immediate next step?

[Rabin] I think it is necessary for Israel to state clearly where it is going and how. This is required first of all for our own needs. Then it must explain it to the Palestinians in the territories, to the Arab world, and to the world at large. We need it because I would like the people of Israel, and mainly the IDF soldiers, to know what we are offering. If it is rejected and we are forced to employ force against violence and terrorism and if we have to engage in war, we ought to know that we have exhausted our moral duty and demonstrated our ability to offer solutions. If we are faced with violence, there is no other way but to react to it with all our might to quell it.

[Ya'ari] Thank you very much, Mr Defense Minister.

Shamir: Plan 'Private View'

TA2001201489 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] The prime minister believes that Mr Rabin's plan reflects his private view and that such ideas should be discussed in the Inner Cabinet. The above was reported this evening by Avi Pazner, the prime minister's adviser, to our correspondent Yoram Ronen.

Tulkarm Mayor Rejects Plan

TA2001203589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In the first of Arab reactions from the territories to Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's plan, the veteran mayor of Tulkarm, Hilmi Hanun, also rejected the plan.

[Begin Hanun recording] Well, I should say the proposal is not accepted, you see, by us. We don't accept elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip because we have got our leadership, the PLO, and we want to tell Mr Rabin that he should not close his eyes. He knows very well that we have got a leadership for the Palestinians. If they want real peace, you see, they know where they should go. [end recording]

Bethlehem Mayor Rejects Plan

TA2101054289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj has rejected Rabin's proposal. He told the Voice of Israel reporter all the Palestinians in the territories will reject it because the PLO is their representative, and they will not allow themselves to be led by puppets. After 13 months of intifadah [uprising], Frayj said, with people killed, wounded, and tens of thousands arrested, it is inconceivable that the inhabitants of the territories would agree to autonomy in half of the West Bank, while the other half is handed over to the settlers. It is regrettable, Frayj said, that the Israeli Government does not want to understand that the sun rises in the east and sets in the west.

Frayj denied that Yasir 'Arafat has threatened his life and that he, Frayj, had never proposed that the intifadah be broken off unilaterally. His proposal was for an agreement between Israel and the PLO.

Arab Circles Reject Plan

TA2201150289 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Jan 89 pp 1,8

[Report by Oscar Franklin, Dan Petreanu, Mikhal Yudelman, Asher Wallfish, and Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpts] Defence Minister Rabin's recent proposals on the future of the territories was motivated by the delicate political situation created by the escalating casualty rate among the Palestinians, and by the IDF's inability to control the disturbances or the Jewish settlers.

This assessment was given by sources in Labour and in the Likud to Rabin's proposal last week for elections and an interim period of expanded autonomy for Palestinians in the territories in exchange for a cessation of the uprising.

Sources close to Prime Minister Shamir indicated last night that Rabin's plan was very similar to several ideas that were discussed in the past month by the Prime Minister's Office. They added that despite the similarities, Shamir prefers a political plan that is based directly on the Camp David accords, while Rabin's ideas appear to ignore them.

The sources expressed dissatisfaction with Rabin's going public with his proposals. An official announcement on behalf of the prime minister published on Friday termed Rabin's proposal "personal views." Shamir added that these were questions that should be considered in the inner cabinet and not in public.

The PLO and key figures in the territories totally rejected Rabin's proposals. [passage omitted]

Tulkarm's mayor, Hilmi Hanun, a PLO supporter, said the organization was the only address for negotiations with the Palestinians. Bashir al-Barghuthi, editor of the Communist AL-TALI'AH newspaper, said the only extraordinary element about the Rabin plan was the defence minister's belief that there were Palestinians who would agree to it.

Deposed Hebron mayor Mustafa al-Natshah said the plan ignored Palestinian rights to self determination and independence, but added that elections for Palestinian negotiators in the territories could be acceptable if the delegates joined the PLO for talks in an international conference.

Bi'r Zayt University Prof. Sari Nusaybah said Rabin's agreement to let the Palestinians determine for themselves the final political status of the territories was a positive departure from the Camp David agreements.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 22 January on page 3 carries an unattributed report on comments of Arab notables in the territories, adding: "Radwan Abu 'Ayyash, chairman of the Palestinian Journalists Association in the Territories: Any attempt to solve the problem without addressing the key factor—the PLO—will merely be a waste of time. If Rabin truly desires to reach a solution, he must appeal directly to the PLO. Sa'id Kan'an from Nabulus: Rabin still cherishes the dream that after the 14-month-long uprising, residents of the territories will agree to negotiate without the PLO, but he is wrong. Rabin talks about autonomy, while we talk today about an independent state."]

Peres: Plan Made by Alignment

TA2201162989 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, by Dan Margalit—live]

[Excerpt] [Margalit] Mr Peres, I just heard IDF Radio announce that the prime minister has decided on the new Mossad chief. You know the identity of that candidate. Will you approve the appointment?

[Peres] That is a good question.

[Margalit] What about an answer to it?

[Peres] It will be given to the prime minister.

[Margalit] In that case, let us get down to business. You have returned from a visit abroad. You must have read about Minister Rabin's plan calling for a truce, elections in the territories, expanded autonomy, and a link between the Palestinian autonomous region and Jordan. Is the Rabin plan acceptable to you?

[Peres] Look, we actually announced this plan, or at least most of its elements, on the eve of the elections. Whatever was acceptable to me then is still acceptable to me today.

[Margalit] Which means that this is actually an Alignment plan?

[Peres] Correct. We announced that this was going to be our proposal. Furthermore, I would suggest that people not be overly excited by the Palestinian rejection of the notion of elections. I am not sure they have fully comprehended our intentions. We are offering real, free, political elections to allow them to elect their representatives. It is always preferable to have the local residents elect their representatives, rather than to have the representatives chosen by events.

[Margalit] But these representatives may, of course, be PLO members. According to a report from abroad, the Swedish prime minister asked that the Israeli Government conduct negotiations with the PLO, and you turned his request down. Is there no conflict here?

[Peres] We are talking about people, not an organization. What do you mean by people associated with the PLO? If you mean their views, I presume you are correct. Let's face it: I think most of the Palestinians in the territories would like to have a Palestinian state. This is not to say that we must accept their view, but it is the truth. The PLO, on the other hand, deals with something else—terrorism and violence. We object to this. We are not writing off a nation; we are not rejecting opinions. We are opposed to an organization whose business is violence. There is a constant confusion here which must be perfectly clarified—as I did in my conversation with the Swedish prime minister.

[Margalit] I presume you were told that we shoot too much in the territories. Moreover, there are some people in Israel who share this view. Do you also think that the IDF fires too often and that this phenomenon should be limited?

[Peres] I believe the problem is indeed difficult for the IDF, but at the same time I do not think it is a military or legal problem. It has legal and military aspects, but the problem is political. Neither the IDF nor the legal system can substitute for a political plan. I do not believe these matters can be dealt with in any way but a real political way.

[Margalit] You say that it is not a legal problem?

[Peres] I said that it has a legal angle, but that in essence it is not a legal problem.

[Margalit] But has the incidence of shooting by the IDF over the past few weeks not digressed from what is permissible by law?

[Peres] I heard the attorney general and the defense minister.

[Margalit] At today's Cabinet session?

[Peres] Both then and on other occasions. What the defense minister said was that the plastic bullets were rubber bullets capable of hitting distant targets. Why are plastic bullets used? Not because it gives so much pleasure, but because lead bullets or metal bullets cause far more fatalities. They are far more lethal. Everyone, after all, is trying to find a way to avoid hitting people and to limit the number of casualties. It is not our policy in the territories to shoot, or to shoot a lot. All that we do is in reaction to the intifadah [uprising] and the initiative of the Palestinians themselves.

[Margalit] Can one not understand from your remark—that the solution is only political—that in fact all the measures we have employed—whether they are more lenient or tougher—cannot really solve the problem, and that they are therefore doomed to failure?

[Peres] No. Until a political solution is found—and I would like to expedite it—we have no alternative but to guarantee security in the territories. I do not want to make life easy for myself, and I am not shirking responsibility. Certainly it is an awful and unpleasant sight that none of us wants. We regret the loss of lives, not one of us wants to cause harm. Yet, let me reiterate that the root of the conflict is political, just as its solution will be political.

[Margalit] The prime minister talked about the possibility that direct talks could begin under the aegis of the UN secretary general. Do you agree with the formula of using the auspices of the UN secretary general in lieu of the five superpowers?

[Peres] If it were up to me, I would give them all up and vote for only direct talks. The problem is how to bring the Arab side to the negotiating table.

[Margalit] Which of the two options would you prefer?

[Peres] I will tell you exactly. I can envision three possibilities for conducting the negotiations: with a Palestinian delegation only; with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation; or with an Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. I would accept any one of these alternatives. They should not be rejected.

[Margalit] What about the sponsorship?

[Peres] One moment. If we opt for a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, which in my mind is the preferable option, there is no chance that Jordan will join such talks without an international conference. I say that it is better to have a situation in which Jordan is included in the negotiations, even if this entails an international conference, than having neither. Look at what happened...

[Margalit, interrupting] Let me understand precisely what you are saying. Allow me to paraphrase your remark: Are you saying that an international conference with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is preferable to negotiations with only the Palestinians under the sponsorship of the UN secretary general?

[Peres] Certainly. That is exactly what I am saying, because the party that destroyed the chance for Jordanian participation left us with only the PLO.

[Margalit] In that aspect, you actually take issue with Mr Shamir?

[Peres] I definitely differ with him. This is nothing new, nor is it a secret. I have not, however, been able to change his mind. I am saying that I wish we had followed the path suggested in the London agreement, and had not left the whole arena open to 'Arafat and the PLO. What for? Furthermore, I believe that a Jordanian-Palestinian framework entails greater chances for a realistic solution to this complex and involved problem.

Look, all the people here who cry out against the PLO today will not know how to handle it tomorrow. I was happy to note that President Bush said the same this morning, namely that he prefers negotiations with Jordan and the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

Shamir: Plan 'Impractical'

TA2301114589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] The defense minister's plan to solve the problems in the territories is impractical, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said at the close of a Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session. As for his own plan, the prime minister said that the peace plan being consolidated in the Prime Minister's Office is not a magic formula. Our correspondent Dov Gilhar heard the prime minister:

[Begin recording] [Shamir] I do not think I have to comment on this plan, first of all because it is a totally personal opinion of the defense minister. Perhaps it would be even more accurate to say that it is Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's notion, but neither the Cabinet nor the Inner Cabinet have ever discussed it. Consequently, I do not feel at all obligated to react to it. Meanwhile, I understand that all Arab elements are rejecting it. Therefore, I would not advise Israel to enter into a whirlpool of arguments on something that stands no chance of being implemented.

[Unidentified television reporter] From Israel's standpoint, do Mr Rabin's ideas include some elements that are acceptable to you?

[Shamir] I said no discussion has been held on the matter and I would not like to be the first to raise the issue, certainly not on television. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 23 January carries another portion of Shamir's remarks. Responding to a question on free elections in the territories, as put forth in Rabin's proposal, Shamir says: "I expressed my opinion. Every plan and every proposal must be debated by the proper institutions." On Minister Moshe Arens' statement that new ideas should be raised, Shamir says he "certainly" agrees, adding: "A creative man must always come up with ideas and thoughts. The criterion must be whether these are just and advantageous." Answering a question on whether, during his upcoming visit to the United States, he will present his own peace plan, Shamir says: "I am not prepared to say today what I will present in the United States. There is no question, however, that I will bring ideas and arguments that have not yet been heard there." On Shim'on Peres talks in the FRG, Shamir says that Peres "reported on them in the Knesset and also told me some things. By and large he expressed things which, if they materialize, could be helpful."]

Reportage on Discussion of Tabah Issue

First Round of Talks End

TA1901143689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Tabah has already proved it is a real and substantial example of cooperation between Egypt and Israel. I am optimistic regarding the continuation of the talks. This was stated a short time ago by Dr Nabil al-'Arabi, head of the Egyptian delegation to the Tabah talks. Our Arab affairs correspondent Gadi Hitman reports from the Aviya Sonesta Hotel:

[Begin recording] [Hitman] The first round of talks on the future of Tabah ended today at noon. The second session of talks will begin this afternoon at 1600. Following the first round of talks, Dr Nabil al-'Arabi said that

there are no special problems and it has already been proved that Tabah has become a tangible example of cooperation between Egypt and Israel.

[Al-'Arabi—in English] It already has been proved that Tabah has become a real example of cooperation between the two countries. We had a dispute and everyone has a right to have a point of view on a dispute. What we did was a very good thing that countries should do: We went to arbitration. We did it to resolve it in a civilized way and we are going to continue to cooperate on this matter.

[Hitman] He stressed that the neighborly relations between Israel and Egypt are good, and that when disagreements arose the two sides went to arbitration and solved the problem in a civilized manner. He emphasized that the two sides had still not discussed specific matters. Nevertheless, in a briefing by Israeli Foreign Ministry Spokesman Alon Li'el, it was learned that the two sides discussed the subject of access to the area, and that this afternoon's session will be dedicated entirely to this matter. The two sides agreed this is a historic opportunity to turn the strip of land constituting Tabah into a basis of cooperation between the two countries.

Abraham Sofaer, the U.S. mediator, also expressed satisfaction about the meeting. He said that peace between Egypt and Israel is a great miracle, and consequently the matter of Tabah will be resolved and become a minor miracle.

[Sofaer—in English] Well, we have to try and that is what we have always done. And, if we could see peace between Egypt and Israel, which was a major miracle, we can make a minor miracle.

[Hitman] Sofaer promised that the United States would do its best to solve the dispute in a manner satisfactory to both parties. [end recording]

'Problems' Reported

TA2001114989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] The current round of talks on the Tabah issue between the Israeli, Egyptian, and U.S. teams ended in the Aviya Sonesta Hotel a short time ago. It is possible that another round of talks will be held next week. Egyptian sources told our correspondent Aharon Barne'a that there are problems in the negotiations between the sides regarding all the details relating to the implementation of the arbitrators' decision. Dr Nabil al-'Arabi, head of the Egyptian delegation, refused to answer correspondents' questions, saying only that the sides discussed all the issues openly and frankly and that the discussions will continue next week. Foreign Ministry Director General Re'uven Merhav, head of the Israeli delegation, also refused to answer correspondents' questions.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Dr Alon Li'el issued an official statement, saying that during the past 2 days the two sides exchanged opinions in an intensive and constructive manner, and that the teams will now consult with their governments with the aim of holding another meeting in the next few days.

Basyuni: Problems Resolved

TA2001140189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni says that in fact all the contentious problems over Tabah have been resolved. All that still remains is to formulate the legal text of the agreement. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that during a tour of the Hermon ski resort, together with a party of Egyptian guests, Ambassador Basyuni replied to questions presented by Israeli vacationers who gathered round him. He said that Israelis who visit Tabah will be requested to present their passport but will not be required to produce visas. He added that with regard to the Aviya Sonesta Hotel, an arrangement seems to be in the offing. Egypt will purchase the hotel, but its owner, Mr Paposhado, will be permitted to continue to run it.

The current round of talks between the Egyptian, Israeli, and U.S. delegations ended today. Another round may take place next week.

Basyuni Denies Report

TA2001165089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni has denied saying that in fact all contentious problems between Israel and Egypt over Tabah have already been settled. Basyuni told our correspondent Bassam Jabir that he has absolutely no intention of talking about the outcome of the negotiations while they are still in progress. He was commenting on a report by our correspondent Hayim Hecht that in reply to questions presented by Israeli holiday-makers on Mount Hermon, Basyuni said that it had been agreed that Israelis who wish to visit Tabah will be asked to show their passports but will not need visas.

Talks Hit 'Serious Snag'

TA2201122889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Jan 89 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpts] The Tabah talks have run into a serious snag in the wake of Egypt's demand that Israel first give a specific and binding timetable for its withdrawal from the area.

The demand, raised in angry tones by Egyptian negotiator Nabil al-'Arabi in Friday's talks at the Sonesta Hotel in Tabah, was carried even further yesterday by Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid who said in Cairo that Israel must withdraw before the talks continue.

"Israel should withdraw from the region the way it has withdrawn from other areas. Then discussions can take place over access and compensation for the other facilities," 'Abd al-Majid said after hearing Al-'Arabi's apparently negative report on the first two-day round of talks, which ended on Friday at noon. [passage omitted]

In stark contrast to Thursday's largely fruitful—but inconclusive—talks on access to Tabah following the expected Israeli withdrawal, on Friday the sides argued over the agenda and the proper sequence of negotiations.

Israel is insisting on linking the issues of access, facilities and withdrawal, while Egypt wants to first secure a timetable for withdrawal.

"The most important issue is to fix a date for withdrawal. The Israelis are dragging their feet," Al-'Arabi told a REUTERS reporter. [passage omitted]

Officials now believe that the issue of the sale of the hotel may pose a much more serious obstacle for the talks, especially since the government-to-government talks cannot exercise authority over the private negotiations being conducted by the owner of the Sonesta, Eli Paposhado, and the prospective Egyptian purchasers.

France's Foreign Minister Pays 36-Hour Visit

Dumas Arrives

TA2101192989 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Excerpt] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas arrived in Israel about an hour ago for a 36-hour visit. The visiting minister will confer with the prime minister and the foreign minister tomorrow. He will also participate in a ceremony at Yad Vashem holocaust memorial in which his late father will be accorded the title of righteous of the nations for saving Jews during World War II.

Holds Talks With Shamir

TA2201172789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said this evening that Europe's role is to convince the Arabs to enter direct negotiations with Israel in order to solve the Middle East conflict. The prime minister made these statements during a conversation with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, in the course of a meeting held in Shamir's office.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Roland Dumas said that France would never consent to any threat to Israel's existence. France is of the opinion, however, that an international forum or conference could be of help in overcoming the difficulties inherent in direct negotiations.

Meets With Arens

TA2301112689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Jan 89 p 1

[Report by Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpt] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas emphasized in talks in Jerusalem yesterday that the only way to advance peace at this time is to convene a preparatory conference that would pave the way to a full-fledged international conference on the Middle East.

Dumas, arguably one of Europe's most pro-Palestinian foreign ministers, put on as friendly a face as possible in his talks and statements here, stressing France's concern for Israel's security and economic well-being.

He also officially invited Prime Minister Shamir to Paris—a visit scheduled for February 21—and proposed that the two countries formalize annual consultations between foreign ministers.

In his meeting with Foreign Minister Arens, Dumas insisted that the French-championed preparatory conference, attended by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, is the only way to bring Arab elements, such as Jordan, to the negotiating table.

Arens expressed reservations about the proposal, and said that Israel's insistence on direct negotiations is "a moderate, and not an extreme demand." Referring to Dumas's observation that the Arab countries are unwilling to negotiate outside of an international frame-work, Arens said that the Arabs would change their minds if the U.S. and Europe were to express unequivocal support for direct negotiations. [passage omitted]

Comments Following Meetings

TA2201203989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] Now to the King David Hotel here in Jerusalem where visiting French Foreign Affairs Minister Roland Dumas has just ended a press conference. David Ze'ev is standing by at the hotel.

[Ze'ev] Despite the reservations of the Israeli Government toward European initiatives in the Middle East, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said tonight, nevertheless, his country and the European Community leadership will continue to play an active role in the peace process. Dumas has had a long day of non-stop meetings as his 2-day visit comes to a close.

Later this week he will be part of an European team that will meet in Madrid with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. Dumas pledged tonight to get clear answers from the PLO leader. His comments were translated into English.

[Begin unidentified translator recording] Of course we shall not fail to exhort at every possible moment that there be an end to the violence, but this is something that must emanate from the peace process itself and it is a part of the peace process itself. [end recording]

[Ze'ev] Foreign Minister Dumas will be taking part in the meeting as a result of his being the next president of the European Community during the second half of 1989. Historically, commercially, and as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, Dumas said France could not shirk its responsibilities in the region. He noted that in his talks with Yitzhaq Shamir today the prime minister welcomed French initiatives, but he admitted that France's proposal for an international conference with the five permanent members of the Security Council did not quite match how Mr Shamir intended to reach direct negotiations. The prime minister has been invited to visit France probably at the end of next month.

As we said, it has been a long day of talks for the foreign minister with his Israeli counterpart Moshe Arens and others and which still has not ended. In talks with various young Israeli politicians today, Dumas said he found more flexibility and a closening toward the French position that in fact the Palestinians have recognized Israel's right to exist.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 22 January adds: "French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas has said that the impression he received from his talks in Jerusalem was that there is a measure of flexibility among Israeli leaders regarding negotiations with the PLO and they do not categorically rule them out. Dumas said he was making this statement despite Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's adamant refusal to talk to the PLO. Dumas abstained from saying unequivocally whether he would suggest to President Mitterrand that he confer with the PLO leader, but added that the French president does not rule out such a meeting when the time is right."]

Loan Agreement With International Banks Signed

TA2201163389 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 22 Jan 89 p 3

[Report by El'azar Levin]

[Excerpt] The Israeli Government signed an agreement on Thursday, in London, according to which it will receive a loan of $50 million from a group of 14 banks from the United States, Europe, and Australia, led by Bank Hamizrahi in London. This is the first time in the history of the state that the government has managed to receive a loan on the international capital market. For many years, the world's largest banks had refused to authorize loans to the Israeli Government because of their fear of the Arab boycott.

An annual interest rate of approximately 9 percent has been set on the loan. The government does not require the money for any specific purpose, and is taking the loan only in order to set a precedent. [passage omitted]

'Sharp Increase' in 'Terrorist Incidents' in 1988

TA2401111989 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Jan 89 p 10

[ITIM report]

[Text] There were 423 terrorist incidents within the Green Line and 2,800 in the territories last year, a sharp increase over the previous year, when there were 158 and 668 incidents, respectively, police chief David Kraus said yesterday. He also noted that the crime rate had risen by 4.9 per cent. Most of the crimes involved theft, particularly of cars.

Shamir Decides on Internal Candidate for Mosad

TA2201150489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has made up his mind on the appointment of the new Mosad chief. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the man comes from Mosad ranks and is currently holds a high position in it. The formal appointment will be made in a few days, after the prime minister has updated Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

Attempt To Form Palestinian Army Uncovered

TA2401053589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] The Army and the General Security Service have uncovered a terror organization which was to have set up a national Palestinian army training base in the territories. According to the charge sheet presented to the military court in Nabulus, the organization is headed by 'Abd al-Fatah Hasan, a 40-year-old resident of the Tulkarm refugee camp. Hasan is charged with acting on orders from the PLO's Fatah Organization. According to the plan, his recruits were to receive basic weapons training in order to carry out attacks against Army and security forces. Hasan had recruited youths from Tulkarm and even received insignias which were to be given to recruits for carrying out attacks.

AIPAC Delegation Meets Palestinian Notables

TA2001145489 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 19 Jan 89 p 3

[Text] Mr Sa'id Kan'an confirmed that a meeting took place between officials of the American Jewish lobby [AIPAC] and five residents from the Palestinian Bank. He said that the talks dwelt on the Palestinian peace

initiative. AIPAC members asked many questions about Yasir 'Arafat's "seriousness" in his recent tendencies and about the readiness of the Palestinian side to recognize Israel.

Kan'an added that those present from the Palestinian side stressed the principle of the right to self-determination, the establishment of a Palestinian state, and the fact that the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative and the only one with whom a dialogue should be conducted.

In a statement to the Israeli newspaper, THE NATION, an AIPAC spokesman had denied that such a meeting had taken place, but Mr Kan'an said that the meeting did take place and that he himself had participated in it. The meeting was held at the residence of the U.S. Consul General in Jerusalem and was initiated by AIPAC. It was attended, from the Palestinian Bank, by Raymonda al-Tawil, Ilyas Frayj, Jonathan Kuttab, and Ziyad Abu Zayyad.

It is worth noting that AIPAC is the most important pro-Israeli American Jewish lobby in the United States and is the acronym for American-Israel Public Affairs Committee, which has great influence over the U.S. news media as well as inside and outside the U.S. Congress.

Cairo To Become Palestinian Political Capital

TA2301125589 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
23 Jan 89 pp 1, 11

[Text] Cairo—Informed sources have said that some PLO leaders intend to reside in Cairo because of the "Egyptian opening." Among these are Akram Haniyah, Mahmud Darwish, Khalid al-Hasan, and apparently also Nabil Sha'th and 'Imad Shaqutu. A Western diplomat said that Cairo will become the Palestinian government's political capital.

PLO activities in Egypt have increased recently, particularly in political, propaganda, and cultural matters, and apparently in the organizational sphere as well. This phenomenon has had an effect on Egypt's relationship with Arab and European countries, and especially the United States, since Egypt is regarded as an important center for press and propaganda activity in the Middle East and as a diplomatic and propaganda crossroads.

PLO people are currently carrying out their activities from several apartments and offices and are using Cairo as a center for their meetings with residents from the occupied areas and Israel. It seems that the Egyptian Government is interested in accelerating this tendency, believing that these things are compatible with the "fundamental change in the PLO's status and conduct."

There is a central PLO liaison office in Cairo headed by Sa'id Kamal, who is presented as the "PLO's delegate." Cooperation between the PLO and the left-wing opposition and the Nasirite wings has become prominent recently. Reports also indicate the existence of a continuing dialogue between the PLO and religious elements, including the Muslim Brotherhood.

A diplomat in Cairo expressed his evaluation that "within 6 months and before Egypt's return to the ranks of the Arab League, Cairo will turn into the capital of the Palestinian government's diplomatic activity."

PLO Said Not Insistent on Right of Return

TA1901144389 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
19 Jan 89 p 3

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Dan Avidan]

[Text] Da'ud Kutab, an East Jerusalem Palestinian journalist and political commentator who attended the 19th PNC session, stated yesterday that the PLO leadership would be willing to forgo the right of Palestinian refugees to return to Israel within its 1948 borders if Israel were to allow the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Kutab said he had gained this impression from the deliberations of the recent PNC session held in Algiers.

Kutab made these remarks in a lecture at the annual seminar held by Tel Aviv University's Dayan Center for Middle East Studies, which this year focused on the intifadah [uprising]. Nevertheless, Kutab pointed out, the PLO would not agree to demilitarize the West Bank and Gaza so as to ensure Israel's security. He said that the PLO might agree to a demilitarization of the territories only for a brief transition period "to allay Israel's fears." This could not continue for a long time, however, because the Palestinian state, when established, would not be able to survive without an army in a region where all the countries, with Israel in the lead, maintain vast armies.

Kutab said his impression was that the inhabitants of the territories would agree to hold elections for town councils or an administrative council, subject to several conditions: that they should not in any way be linked to the autonomy plan, that they should not lead to the election of a local leadership that would replace the PLO in political negotiations, that they should be held under international supervision and be absolutely free, that they should be preceded by the release of the leaders of the uprising who were incarcerated by Israel by virtue of administrative orders, and that the inhabitants of East Jerusalem should be allowed to vote.

The East Jerusalem journalist added that elections in the territories should pave the way to free political organization and provide solutions to the political problems of the inhabitants, primarily the question of the IDF's withdrawal from the territories. In this context, Kutab said that most inhabitants of the territories currently favor a political plan that would pave the way for the

IDF's withdrawal from populated centers in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and the stationing of UN troops in the territories to oversee the attainment of an interim arrangement that would lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Kutab enumerated the achievements of the intifadah: an increase in the self-confidence and level of national consciousness of the inhabitants of the territories, and their success in diverting the PLO's policy toward a pragmatic path, which paved the way for the opening of a dialogue between the PLO and the United States. According to Kutab, the uprising has continued, among other reasons, because of the popular nature of its leadership, which is acceptable to all sectors of the population; the fact that the leadership has been demanding from the public only gestures that the latter is capable of making; and that it has been able to persuade the PLO's top echelon about the wisdom of the line it has been adopting in the territories.

Spokesman on IDF 'Wrongful Violence' Incidents

TA2301192689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] The Army spokesman says 50 soldiers have been tried in military courts in the past year for using unjustified violence in the territories. The spokesman, Brigadier General Efrayim Lapid, was participating in the symposium in Netanya on the subject of human dignity.

Brigadier General Efrayim Lapid, the Army spokesman, says 50 soldiers have been tried in military courts since the beginning of the uprising in the territories for deviant behavior and excessive violence. Several hundreds have been disciplined by their superior officers.

Lapid says these figures indicate that tens of thousands of IDF soldiers are performing their duties in the territories with restraint and with the morality and the values they have brought with them from their homes and from IDF training.

Lapid said families of the victims of wrongful violence in the territories are compensated by the Civil Administration.

Lapid says that 47 Arab residents of the territories have been killed by plastic bullets and 288 wounded since the use of plastic bullets was introduced. But, he says, plastic bullets were introduced in the territories to increase the distance between soldiers and violent demonstrators. He says that while live lead ammunition may only be used if the soldiers' life is in danger, plastic bullets fired at the legs may now be used to disperse violent demonstrations. The IDF is seeking new ways, said Lapid, to eliminate death from the use of plastic bullets.

'Sons of Village Movement' Claims Harassment

TA2101134689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] The Sons of the Village Movement claims that the authorities are limiting its political activity. According to its representatives, over the past few months six movement members have been placed under administrative detention. In addition to that, the Interior Ministry official in charge of the Northern District is currently threatening to shut down its mouthpiece, AL-RAYA, on the pretext that the DFLP finances it.

Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the police detained 11 Sons of the Village members in Sakhnin in the Galilee for participating in a rally during which speeches reviling the state were made and nationalist songs were sung. Two Druze residents of Shefar'am are also among the detainees.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

1 Wounded in Gaza

TA2301175689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] A local youth from the Al-Shati' refugee camp was wounded by a plastic bullet fired by IDF soldiers after he was identified as having thrown stones at an IDF patrol. Local residents reported the additional wounding of two Arabs in Jabalyah and the suburb of Al-Shaykh Radwan.

A relative quiet prevailed today in the Gaza Strip and commerce was normal. A general strike is expected throughout the Gaza Strip tomorrow in accordance with leaflets distributed by Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1230 GMT on 23 January adds that "a border policeman was slightly injured this morning in East Jerusalem after he was struck in the neck by a stone. The incident occurred on 'Abad Street in the Old City. The police used tear gas to disperse the rioters."]

1 Wounded in Stoning Incident

TA2301191589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] A resident of the village of Jaba' near Janin was wounded by rubber bullets in the process of an incident in which stones were thrown at an IDF unit. Arab sources said that another resident was wounded in the incident.

A bus transporting soldiers was stoned in Al-Birah. Its windowshield was shattered and a soldier was slightly grazed.

Youths Sentenced for Stoning

TA2301192289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] A magistrate court in the north has convicted four youths from Shefar'am of throwing stones at policemen. The court instructed that they do voluntary work in one of the town's institutions for 1 year.

The court also imposed a fine of 1,000 shekels on a student from the village of Al-Sha'b, who had been convicted of flying a PLO flag on Land Day.

1 Killed, 1 Hurt in Hablah

TA2401052989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Security forces killed an Arab youth near the village of Hablah in the Qalqilyah region during the night. Initial military reports say an Army patrol was attacked by six masked youths. The soldiers gave chase and, when the six refused to halt, opened fire. Two were injured, and one later died; the rest escaped. Security forces are sweeping the area. Our reporter adds that for some time, the Hablah area has been the site of terrorist cell activities against settlers and Palestinians suspected of cooperating with the authorities. [passage omitted]

In the Gaza Strip, a youth from Khan Yunus has been sentenced to a 4-year suspended sentence and fined 1,000 shekels for hurling stones at soldiers in an incident at Dayr al-Balah.

Curfew Imposed in Gaza

TA2401074589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] This morning preemptive curfews were imposed on most Gaza Strip refugee camps in the wake of the general strike called by the Unified National Command of the Uprising. As a result, no trade is being conducted, traffic is slow, and most of the laborers will not leave for work in Israel today.

Curfew on Hablah

TA2401112989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Security forces have imposed a curfew on the village of Hablah near Qalqilyah after disturbances. Women and children from the village staged a procession, mourning for a youth killed last night in a clash with soldiers. The procession turned violent, and a curfew was imposed on the village. Curfews have also been clamped on most Palestinian refugee camps in the Gaza Strip. A general strike is in effect today in the territories. [passage omitted]

Al-Qasim on Rabin Plan, U.S. Mideast Stand

JN2301143089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1207 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Interview with Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by Randah Habib in Amman on 23 January—recorded]

[Text] [Habib] Your Excellency the Minister, the Israeli defense minister has recently made a series of proposals on the occupied territories: A period of calm for 3 to 6 months in the territories; holding of elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip; granting of expanded self-rule; and the choice between a confederation with Jordan or Israel. What is Amman's stand on these proposals?

[Al-Qasim] The most important issue currently facing this region is that Israel should agree on the principle of withdrawal which was approved by the world, particularly the Security Council through Resolution No 242 regarding the occupied Palestinian Arab territories. The acceptance by Israel of the principle of withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967 will inevitably give an opportunity to an international party to supervise these territories during the Israeli withdrawal from them. Afterward, elections will be organized in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with full freedom away from any outside influence so that the Palestinian Arab people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip can determine their own destiny. The outcome of self-determination—which is a natural right for the Palestinians—will also affirm the extent of their aspiration for a confederation, a federation, or a unity with any party whatsoever. This process is primarily linked to the right to self-determination.

[Habib] Your Excellency the Minister, following the moderate line of the PLO, what does Jordan expect from the new U.S. Administration? Is there anything that points to tangible signs of change in Washington's stand?

[Al-Qasim] Certainly, there has been a radical change in the stand of the former U.S. Administration. We hope the U.S. action will continue through intensifying the dialogue with the PLO. The PLO accepted the U.S. conditions to hold this dialogue and there are no longer any differences in the Arab side over the comprehensive approach toward peace, namely, the recognition of Resolutions 242 and 338 and the right of everyone to live in security and peace in this region. Therefore, we believe that further U.S. efforts to effect the convening of an international conference for peace must yield fruit for this region and its peoples.

[Habib] Thank you.

Reportage on Meetings With YAR Delegation

YAR Foreign Minister Arrives

JN2001123889 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] The foreign minister of the Yemeni Arab Republic and deputy premier, Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, and the Yemeni minister of economy, trade, and supply, Dr 'Abd al-Wahhab Mahmud, arrived in Amman this morning to attend meetings of the Jordanian-Yemeni Joint Committee. Dr al-Iryani told reporters upon arrival that the committee meetings, which will be co-chaired by the prime minister, Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i, and his Yemeni counterpart, Mr 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, who arrives tomorrow, will finalize arrangements for joint cooperation and coordination in the economic, cultural, and educational fields between Jordan and Yemen.

YAR Prime Minister Arrives

JN2101130189 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Excerpts] YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani arrived in Amman at noon today, leading an official delegation on an official 2-day visit to Jordan. He will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and senior state officials and head the YAR side to meetings of the higher Jordan-YAR joint committee to begin at the Prime Ministry this afternoon. Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i will head Jordan's team to the meetings. [passage omitted]

The YAR prime minister said he is delighted to be visiting Jordan. In an arrival statement, he added that the higher joint committee meeting in Amman assumes special significance as a booster to bilateral cooperation. The meeting will also address matters of general Arab interest, said 'Abd al-Ghani. The Yemeni delegation to the committee meetings is comprised of the deputy prime minister and foreign minister; minister of economy, supply and trade; minister of information and culture; the YAR ambassador in Amman; the Prime Ministry's advisor; and a number of other senior Yemeni officials.

Al-Qasim Receives Counterpart

JN2101133489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received in his office today Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, YAR deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr 'Abd al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of economy, supply and trade. They reviewed brotherly bilateral ties and how to further improve them. They discussed key Arab issues and how to coordinate their efforts to serve them on the Arab and global levels.

Al-Qasim and his YAR counterpart then held a meeting at the Foreign Ministry attended by minister of industry and trade and on the Yemeni side by the minister of economy, supply and trade, in addition to the members of the preparatory committee on both sides. The meeting reviewed the results of the preparatory committee meetings held in Amman last week. Agreement was reached on allowing Jordanian freight cars to carry goods directly to the YAR and transit shipment without placing any restrictions on their movement. They also agreed to allocate a minimum $10 million for trade centers in both

countries in addition to fixing a quota of direct selling to the public through setting up trade Jordanian-Yemeni exhibitions during the current year.

King Receives 'Abd al-Ghani

JN2101164689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at Al-Nadwah Palace this afternoon YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani in the presence of Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. His majesty was briefed by Al-Rifa'i and 'Abd al-Ghani on the work of the Higher Joranian-Yemeni Committee and the progress it has made in the various fields of cooperation between the two countries in the interest of both peoples. His majesty expressed satisfaction with the development and progress of Jordanian-Yemeni relations, affirming the importance of further strengthening and developing these ties to achieve the two countries' objectives in all fields.

The meeting was attended by the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; his majesty's political and special advisors; the chief chamberlain; the ministers of foreign affairs, information, industry and trade, and supply; and the Jordanian ambassador in Sanaa. It was attended on the YAR side by the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, the ministers of economy and information, the Yemeni ambasador in Amman, and the adivisor of the YAR prime minister. King Husayn also hosted a lunch for the conferees.

Committee Discusses Cooperation

JN2201074089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Jan 89 p 1

[Excerpt] The Joint Jordanian-North Yemeni Higher Committee met at the Prime Ministry under the co-chairmanship of Al-Rifa'i and 'Abd al-Ghani Saturday evening. Petra said the committee reached agreement that Jordan would continue to provide North Yemen with Jordanian doctors and that both sides will hold trade fairs in each other's capital and will be allowed to sell $5 million worth of goods exempt from customs duties to the public. Jordan will also establish a trade centre in Sanaa to promote Jordanian products in North Yemen. [passage omitted]

JORDAN TIMES Covers Minutes

JN2301081089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Jan 89 pp 1, 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Jordan and North Yemen Sunday concluded two days of high level talks and agreed on a number of measures to boost bilateral cooperation in economic, trade, educational, cultural, agricultural, energy, security, research, planning, housing and telecommunications fields. The talks were conducted by the Joint Jordanian-North Yemeni Higher Committee co-chaired by the prime ministers of the two countries: Zayd al-Rifa'i and 'Abd al-'Aziz Abd al-Ghani respectively.

Following the talks, held at the Prime Ministry in Amman, al-Rifa'i and Abd al-Ghani signed minutes of the deliberations and said that they would hold biennial meetings alternately in Amman and Sanaa to follow up the implementation of various agreements. According to the agreements:

The two sides will give favourable treatment to national products imported by either country, and will call their joint economic committee to meet during 1989 to deal with trade and economic cooperation.

Jordan will organise a national industrial fair in Sanaa and North Yemen will hold a similar fair in Amman during 1989 with products to be sold directly to the public or to the respective governments hosting the fair.

The two sides will allocate fixed quotas for their respective trade centres in Amman and Sanaa according to the terms of an earlier bilateral agreement and will make payment for imported products through the central banks of Jordan and North Yemen. Engineers from both sides will exchange visits and acquaint themselves with the construction potentials.

North Yemen requested that 45 Jordanian specialists and engineers be allowed to be employed in North Yemen's projects and that Jordan provide expertise and supervisory services in construction projects in North Yemen.

The two sides will exchange legislations on construction work and engineering publications dealing with public works and transport and qualifications of engineers and consultancy firms.

North Yemen will give Jordanian contractors favourable treatment in tenders for projects in North Yemen and allow Jordanian engineers and contractors associations to open offices in Sanaa to study potential schemes.

The two sides will expand cooperation between the energy and power authorities in Jordan and North Yemen. North Yemen will give Jordan favourable status concerning tenders for power projects and allow the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) to carry out feasibility studies and prepare designs for power distribution networks in two areas in North Yemen.

A joint consultancy firm will be set up to carry out industries that would meet the local markets' needs. The two sides will coordinate work between their respective departments in charge of specifications and measures.

Jordan will offer training courses for North Yemeni personnel in food industries, measurements, equipment testing, analysis of precious metal, quality control, documentation.

North Yemen requested Jordan's expertise in solar power, building material pricing and internal marketing. Jordan agreed to offer facilities of the Royal Scientific Society and the Ministry of Industry and Trade to provide tests on different products upon North Yemen's request.

North Yemen will inform Jordan by March 1989 about its needs of teaching staff for its schools for the coming school year and the two sides will sign an executive programme for the implementation of an educational agreement for the coming three years.

Jordan will offer North Yemeni students 10 scholarships at various university levels and will make available 30 seats for North Yemeni students to study medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, engineering, agriculture and sciences as well as 10 seats for post-graduate studies.

The two will conclude an agreement to pave the way for exchanges of television and radio programmes and launch cooperation between their respective national news agencies.

The two sides will endorse all types of pharmaceutical products produced and registered in either country and call authorities in charge of the distribution of medicine to hold periodical meetings to overcome any obstacles in the exchange of drug products. The health ministries of the two sides will initiate cooperation in accordance with a 1988 agreement.

Jordan agreed to provide North Yemen with 20,000 olive tree saplings and to offer North Yemenis post-graduate studies in agriculture at Jordanian universities.

Jordan will give training to North Yemeni personnel in agriculture, poultry, animal husbandry, plasticulture, irrigation and plant protection as well as marketing of crops, veterinary skills, pasture and afforestation operations and controlling animal diseases, and planting fruit trees. The two sides will cooperate in archaeology and antiquities studies through their concerned departments which will exchange documents, publications, and information and will coordinate training programmes for their personnel and involve trainees in excavation work. They will also cooperate in matters related to civil service and public administration.

Jordan will provide North Yemen with specialists in social welfare, social research, electricity, automechanics, electronics and heavy machinery and will coordinate matters related to security and provide training to North Yemenis at the Public Security Department.

The committee approved of plans for cooperation in research work by the Royal Scientific Society and the North Yemeni Research Centre and said facilities should be given to researchers from either country.

Jordan will provide training to North Yemeni personnel in telephone and telecommunications networks and postal services.

The two sides will cooperate in legislations and laws governing housing and involve Jordanian specialists in helping North Yemen design roads, and others to supervise work in housing projects and train personnel in these fields.

The two sides will launch joint programmes to train personnel in marketing tourist attractions and to encourage tourist groups to visit either country.

The two sides will set up a follow-up committee to supervise the implementation of the agreements and will hold another meeting in Sanaa in July 1989.

According to officials here Jordan exported to North Yemen nearly $2 million worth of pharmaceuticals, eggs, textiles, cement and glass in the first nine months of 1988, but took no imports in return. North Yemen already employs 500 Jordanian schoolteachers and 70 medical staff.

The JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, PETRA, said that following the signing of the minutes Al-Rifa'i accompanied 'Abd al-Ghani on a tour of touristic and archaeological sites in Madaba district as well as Islamic sites.

Al-Rifa'i later hosted a lunch at the Ma'in Spa in honour of the North Yemeni premier and his delegation. 'Abd al-Ghani visited the Martyr's Monument and reviewed its contents of military equipment and other items that relate the development of the Armed Forces in Jordan. He also called at the King Husayn Medical Centre and the Queen Alia Heart Centre.

Later Sunday, 'Abd al-Ghani and his delegation left for home and were seen by Al-Rifa'i and other senior officials. In a statement before departure, Abd al-Ghani expressed deep satisfaction over the higher committee's accomplishments, which, he said, are designed to serve the interests of both countries. Abd al-Ghani also sent a cable to Al-Rifa'i thanking him for the hospitality accorded to his delegation during the two-day visit and wished Jordan further progress and prosperity.

YAR Delegation Departs

JN2201212389 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] The prime minister of the YAR and his accompanying delegation left Amman this evening following their 2-day visit. Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ghani said in a statement that he was pleased with the results of the meetings of the higher committee and the agreements reached by the two sides to bolster their cooperation in the economic, social, health, and cultural fields. Mr 'Abd al-Ghani was seen off by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and senior civic and military officials.

Japanese Red Army Official Reportedly in Country

NC2301192889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] American sources have disclosed to Radio Free Lebanon that Fusako Shigenobu, official in charge of the terrorist Japanese Red Army Organization, is currently in Lebanon. It is known that members of the Japanese Red Army had been present in the Syrian-controlled area of Al-Biqa' in Lebanon together with Abu Nidal organization elements.

Israel, Ethiopia To Resume Transfer of Falashas

NC2401091789 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 23 Jan 89 p 1

[Text] According to diplomatic sources in Beirut, Israel and Ethiopia have reached a new agreement to resume the transfer of Falasha Jews from Ethiopia to occupied Palestine.

The sources say that, according to this agreement, Kenya will be substituted for the Red Sea island of Dahlak as the first transit station for the Falashas before they are transported to Palestine.

Kenya was selected, the sources say, because Dahlak's use for the purpose of transporting the Falashas was exposed during a similar operation in 1984. The sources say that Kenya agreed to facilitate the transfer of the Falashas following intervention by and promises from the United States, a country with which Kenya has signed military agreements.

The sources say that Israel and Ethiopia have decided to resume the transfer of Falashas in the early spring.

Amal Thwarts Hizballah Kafr Fila Attack 23 Jan

NC2401070589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Tension is high throughout Iqlim al-Tuffah in the wake of the clashes which broke out there last night. The Amal Movement has denied that it started the fighting, as claimed by Hizballah. The movement accused Hizballah of launching an offensive against Kafr Fila at 2100. The offensive was checked and aborted by Amal fighters.

Amal, Hizballah Exchange Fire in Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC2301204089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] The fighting between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah resumed this evening. Violent exchanges of artillery, rocket, and machinegun fire are currently taking place between the positions of the two sides on the Jba', Kafr Fila, 'Ayn Qana, Jarju', and 'Ayn bu Siwar lines.

Hizballah sources have said that Amal groups attempted to infiltrate in the direction of the Jba' axis at 1900 today, launching an attack on Hizballah positions under an artillery cover. The sources added that Hizballah fighters repulsed the attack, killing and wounding a number of Amal Movement fighters. The sources continued: The shelling then intensified in a mad way against Jba' and 'Ayn bu Siwar and their vicinities.

Overflights, Clashes Continue

NC2401090989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] A squadron of Israeli warplanes flew over Sidon and the Palestinian camps at low altitude at 1015 this morning. The planes drew antiaircraft fire.

Meanwhile, clashes involving the use of machineguns and rockets are currently raging between the Amal Movement and Hizballah along the Iqlim al-Tuffah combat lines.

Cabinet Convenes; Birri Comments on Fighting

NC1801122289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] The cabinet convened at the house of Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss today and discussed the outcome of the Arab foreign ministers' meetings and the talks which Prime Minister Salim al-Huss and Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni had with the Syrian leadership in Damascus yesterday. The cabinet meeting was held at 1030, with Ministers 'Adil 'Usayran, Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi, Nabih Birri, and Walid Junblatt attending.

At the conclusion of the cabinet meeting at 1245, Ministers 'Usayran and Birri made statements on the events in the southern suburb and Iqlim al-Tuffah and the means that should be pursued to establish peace and reconcile the Amal Movement and Hizballah.

During the meeting, Prime Minister al-Huss briefed the ministers on the atmosphere that prevailed during the talks with the Syrian leadership, particularly concerning the continuous battles in the southern suburb and Iqlim al-Tuffah and the ongoing efforts to end the fighting.

Minister 'Usayran told the newsmen that a high-level Arab meeting with Iranian participation will be held to halt the Amal-Hizballah clashes. He went on to say that the venue of the meeting has not yet been decided on.

Minister Birri said: As is known, the Amal Movement has submitted the guarantees as requested by the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council. However, we are still waiting for the response from the other side. The movement has never advocated fighting.

On the reconciliation between the Amal Movement and Hizballah, Minister Birri said: A comprehensive reconciliation does not begin while a knife is pointing at your throat. Security or calm must prevail first, and then the comprehensive reconciliation, which also has its own conditions, must come.

On the issue of guarantees, Minister Birri said: We have given guarantees to the Al-Biqa' ulama grouping and to His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din. Birri went on to say that all guarantees have been presented with regard to the initiative made by Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan. Minister Birri expressed readiness to visit Tunis if an invitation is extended to him.

Birri Sets Further Condition for Reconciliation

NC2401071989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Consultations and exchanges will resume in the Syrian capital today in a bid to establish an acceptable basis for ending the Amal-Hizballah fighting. [passage omitted]

After the Amal Movement's meeting with the Syrian and Iranian delegations, Minister Nabih Birri said that the talks were characterized by frankness and seriousness. He noted that the conferees demonstrated a strong desire to end the fratricidal fighting. Minister Birri expressed the hope that the talks will produce positive results, but he noted: We must wait and see, however.

Minister Birri went on to say: We have no objection to achieving an unconditional security accord in order to end the fighting. But reconciliation with Hizballah is contingent upon conditions. We have no objection to such a reconciliation, as long as our conditions are met; namely, the handing over of the killers of the three officials of the movement and the perpetrators of the Iqlim al-Tuffah massacre.

Fadlallah on Proposed Meeting for 'All Lebanese'

NC2401074489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has expressed his belief that every war eventually reaches a dead end. This happens if the war is between Muslims and Christians or if it is among sons of the same religion. In an interview, Fadlallah said: Ancient fighters have always reached this dead end or come up against red lines which are not to be crossed, and modern fighters, will also come up against these lines.

This, he said, has prompted us to invite all Lebanese to meet without preconditions. During this meeting, each party can present terms for a solution or offer concessions.

His eminence noted that the problem in any dispute is that the parties keep their distance and engage in a dialogue as if they were deaf people. Therefore, outsiders, instead of the Lebanese themselves, are speaking on behalf of Lebanon. The Lebanese themselves get together abroad, but they never do so at home. This means that they go everywhere and find no stability at home.

Finally, Ayatollah Fadlallah expressed his readiness to agree with everybody on the points of accord to provide a basis for dialogue on points of difference.

12 Fatah Members, Communists in Al-Khiyam Freed

NC1801122989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Our correspondent in the south reports that the South Lebanese Army [SLA], on a personal order from SLA Commander Major General Antoine Lahd, released at noon today 12 persons who had been detained at Al-Khiyam prison. The release comes on the occasion of the new year. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent notes that the detainees had been accused of carrying out acts of sabotage in the border area. They belong to the Palestinian Fatah Movement and the Communist Party.

Reportage on Meetings To Discuss Lebanese Crisis

Lebanese Officials Arrive

NC2301072689 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0600 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri and Amal officials Dr Ayyub Humayyid, Attorney Haytham Jum'ah, Dr Muhammad Baydun, and Ahmad Harb arrived in Damascus yesterday afternoon. Meanwhile, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, and a Hizballah delegation comprising Ibrahim al-Amin, Husayn Musawi, and Husayn Khalil also arrived in the Syrian capital.

According to press sources, Minister Birri will put forward an initiative to end the dispute between Amal and Hizballah. It has been reported that a meeting will be held today attended by the Amal Movement and Hizballah delegations in addition to Shaykh Shams al-Din and an Iranian delegation led by Foreign Minister Velayati. A Syrian delegation comprising Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon, will also take part in the meeting.

Highly placed sources have emphasized the importance of the Syrian role in any formula that will be worked out concerning the security problem in the southern suburb and the issue of disarmament there. These are essential factors in establishing lasting stability and security.

In another development, Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan has reiterated his call to the Syrian forces to assume responsibility for security in the southern suburb. He stressed the need for the implementation of his personal initiative which calls for an end to the Amal-Hizballah dispute. Shaykh Qabalan said that West Beirut should be demilitarized and that the role of the gun in the area should be eliminated.

He added: We stress to all devout Shi'ites, and the Iranian foreign minister in particular, that the problem canot be resolved through a general reconciliation but through security reconciliation, which should begin in Jba' and 'Ayn Bu Siwar with the withdrawal of gunmen to Jabal Safi and Al-Luwayzah. We undertake to ensure the supply of food, arms, and ammunition to the gunmen. Mufti Qabalan proposed the formation of a quadripartite committee comprising Syria, Iran, the Amal Movement, and Hizballah to supervise the cease-fire in all areas and eliminate all obstacles and hurdles.

Al-Shar' Receives Velayati

JN2301130789 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his delegation. Talks dealt with the means to end fratricidal fighting between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in Lebanon. After the meeting, Dr Velayati stated that talks with Minister al-Shar' dealt with bilateral relations and the problems facing the brothers in Lebanon.

Dr Velayati arrived last night at the head of a senior delegation. He stated that he has a letter from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i to President Hafiz al-Asad.

A ranking Hizballah delegation and another Amal Movement delegation under lawyer Nabih Birri arrived in Damascus yesterday. His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Council, also arrived in Damascus. Sources close to the delegations said that the purpose of these meetings is to end the fighting that is raging between the brothers, who are now enemies. The sources said they believe that any solution calls for Syria's guidance and Iran's assistance.

On another level, a meeting was held between Iranian Foreign Minister Dr Velayati and Amal Movement Leader Nabih Birri in the presence of His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din. After the meeting, Birri told the press that the condition he sets for a reconciliation with Hizballah is the handing over of the killers of Dawud Dawud and his colleagues who were assassinated in Beirut last September to the Syrian authorities.

The meetings are expected to resume later today.

IRNA on Talks

LD2301152689 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Damascus, Jan 23, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in his efforts to resolve the fratricide in Lebanon conferred with his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar', members of Hizballah's Leadership Council and Amal Movement leader in separate meetings in Damascus today.

In his meetings with Hizballah and Amal officials, Velayati laid stress on the need for cooperation between Islamic and national forces for strengthening the anti-global arrogance struggle.

Velayati termed the clashes as a blow to Islamic unity and an opportunity for the Zionist regime to exploit.

The Iranian foreign minister further placed emphasis on the need for an immediate end to the fratricide and negotiations for settling the dispute.

Earlier, at the meeting between the two foreign ministers, Shar' said Tehran and Damascus share a joint stance and "we should coordinate efforts in putting an end to the clashes."

In response, Velayati praised Syria's good-intention and efforts for solving Lebanon's problems.

The Iranian official arrived here at the head of delegation Sunday [22 January] to hold talks with Amal and Hizballah officials to end the clashes between the two lebanese Muslim groups.

Al-Shar', Velayati, Birri Confer

JN2301131289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] A three-way meeting was held at the Foreign Ministry this morning grouping Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Iran's Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and Amal Movement Chief Nabih Birri. Diya'ullah al-Fattal, assistant foreign minister; Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an; and Munir Musa Basha, the Asia Desk chief were present. On the Iranian side the meeting was attended by Mahdi Zadeh, an Islamic Majlis member; Hoseyn Sheykh-ol-Eslam, assistant foreign minister; Hasan Akhtari, Iran's Damascus ambassador; and the Iranian charges d'affaires in Beirut.

From the Amal Movement, there were Dr Muhammad Baydun, Haytham Jum'a, Dr Ayyub Humayyid, and Ahmad Harb. The interlocutors exchanged views on how to tackle regrettable and painful incidents in the district of Al-Tuffah and Beirut's southern Beirut. Earlier in the day, Al-Shar' received Dr Velayati with the assistant foreign minister and Asia Desk chief in attendance. On the Iranian side Dr Velayati's delegation and Tehran's Damascus ambassador were also present. They explored ways to end the Amal-Hizballah fighting in Lebanon.

Birri on Talks With Velayati

LD2301182589 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Damascus, Jan. 23, IRNA—Head of Lebanon's Amal Movement Nabih Birri said here Monday there was no obstacle to resolve his group's clashes with the Hizballah.

Speaking to reporters after meeting Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati early in the day, Birri said the two had discussed ways of ending the fratricide in Lebanon and stressed "we are looking forward to the results of the talks."

He said his militia is ready for a compromise with Hizballah on conditions the alleged assasins of some Amal commanders and elements responsible for the recent clash in Iqlim al-Tuffah are identified and surrendered.

The Amal chief promised to do all within his power to put an end to the bloody clashes which, he said, benefits only the Zionists.

The Iranian foreign minister heading a delegation arrived here Sunday, and has since held separate talks with the belligerents as well as his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' to end the fratricide in Lebanon.

Three-Way Meeting Held

JN2301195089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Excerpt] This afternoon, a three-way meeting was held at the Foreign Ministry, grouping Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and a Hizballah command team comprising 'Abbas al-Musawi, Husayn al-Musawi, Ibrahim al-Amin, and Haj Husayn al-Khalil. Attending for Syria was Diya'ullah al-Fattal, assistant foreign minister; Brigadier Ghazi Kan'an; and Munir Musa Basha, the Asia Desk chief. Attending for Iran were Mahdi Zadeh, an Islamic Majlis member; Hoseyn Sheykh-ol-Eslam, assistant foreign minister; Hasan Akhtari, Iran's ambassador in Damascus; and the Iranian charges d'affaires in Beirut. The talks centered on how best to end fighting between Hizballah and the Amal Movement in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Monte Carlo Updates Talks

JN2401065089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Intensive meetings are continuing here to reach a solution to the issue of fratricide between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in Lebanon. An Amal delegation led by lawyer Nabih Birri, a Hizballah delegation led by Shaykh Ibrahim al-Amin, and an Iranian delegation led by Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in Damascus for this purpose. His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy leader of the Higher Shi'ite Council, also arrived here.

A Syrian-Iranian meeting was held under Faruq al-Shar' and 'Ali Akbar Velayati, during which opinions were exchanged about the regrettable conditions in Iqlim al-Tuffah and Beirut's southern suburb. This was followed by a Syrian-Iranian meeting attended by the Amal Movement's delegation. Following this meeting, Minister Birri said the talks were characterized by seriousness and frankness as well as keen desire to end this fratricide. He hoped the talks will be fruitful, but said one should now wait. Replying to a question, Birri said: We do not basically object to an unconditional security accord to end fighting. As for reconciliation with Hizballah, reconciliation has its own conditions and we do not object to it provided that the killers of the three Amal leaders and the perpetrators of the Iqlim al-Tuffah masscare are handed over.

Minister Faruq al-Shar' only said that matters are developing in a good and positive manner and we hope to reach a solution to this problem.

Dr Velayati said talks with Minister al-Shar' dealt with bilateral relations and the problems facing the brothers in Lebanon.

Another Syrian-Iranian meeting, attended by Hizballah delegation, was then held at the Syrian Foreign Ministry. It lasted over 4 hours, after which Velayati and Hizballah's Shaykh Husayn Musawi voiced their optimism. Shaykh Musawi added that the talks will be resumed on Tuesday.

It is noteworthy that His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan, the Ja'farite mufti, arrived in Damascus at night and immediately met with His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din. A face-to-face meeting is later expected between the Amal and Hizballah delegations in the presence of the Syrian and Iranian foreign ministers.

IRNA Covers Meetings

LD2401074589 Tehran IRNA in English 0715 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Damascus, Jan. 24, IRNA—Foreign Ministers of Iran and Syria held a joint meeting with the leaders of the Hizballah organization Tuesday night in a bid to end the bloody clashes between the groups and its rival, Amal.

But as extensive talks on stopping the fighting continued here, the exchange of fire and words between the two groups went on unabated in southern Lebanon and Hizballah accused Amal of trying to undermine the Damascus talks.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic are making an effort to bring closer together the views of Hizballah and Amal so that their differences can be resolved in a principled way," said foreign Ministry spokesman Morteza Sarmadi.

He was speaking to IRNA after the meeting between Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Syrian foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Shaykh ol-Eslam and Hizballah representatives Shaykh Ibrahim al-Amin and Husayn al-Musawi.

Sarmadi said both countries hoped to settle the dispute in a meeting attended by both Amal and Hizballah representatives. He did not indicated when this meeting would be held.

"Iran and Syria have complete agreement on solving the issues facing Lebanon and putting an end to the (inter-Shi'a) clashes," he added.

Member of Hizballah leadership council al-Musawi said the group was prepared to call off the fighting which has led to hundreds of deaths and injuries on both sides in addition to civilian casualties.

Al-Musawi said during the tri-partite talks it was proposed that the propaganda war betwwen the two groups stop immediately, prisoners be exchanged and Amal end its blockade of roads leading to Hizballah held areas in Iqlim al-Tuffah and Jabal Safi [placename as received].

"We all claim to be serving Islam and Muslims but if we if we are honest we must quickly end the clashes," Al-Musawi told IRNA.

He stressed that the Islamic resistance led by Hizballah was an "inseparable" part of Lebanon and those trying to weaken it were strengthening the Zionist front.

The Iranian foreign minister also met last night with Lebanese Shi'a leaders Shaykh Mehdi Shams al-Din and Shaykh Husayn Fadhlallah to exchange views on ways of ending the conflict.

Meanwhile in the Iqlim al-Tuffah region of southern Lebanon Amal and Hizballah guerrillas exchanged heavy fire with various light and heavy weapons Monday evening but by night time the fighting was reduced to sporadic fire.

Hizballah said Amal militiamen launced a heavy attack in the Jba' area at 7 p.m. Monday but their advance was halted by the other side's stiff resistance.

Hizballah accused Amal of trying to sabotage the Damascus talks by continuing its military attacks. In return Amal blamed the fighting on Hizballah who was accused of breaking the truce in the area.

Al-Asad Receives Velayati

JN2401125989 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Jan

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati and the accompanying delegation at 1245 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus.

Earlier today, Faruq al-Shar' received Dr Velayati. The meeting was attended by Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an and Hasan Akhatari, Iranian ambassador in Damascus.

The meeting dealt with all the subjects that had been presented during yesterday's meetings.

'Intensive Meetings' Continue

JN2401131489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Intensive meetings are continuing here to discuss the regrettable situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah and Beirut's southern suburb and the ways to end fighting between

the Amal Movement and Hizballah. Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati met with Hizballah's delegation at the Iranian Embassy building in Damascus and briefed its members on the results of his talks yesterday with the Amal Movement delegation at the Syrian Foreign Ministry in the presence of Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an. Minister al-Shar' then received Dr Velayati in the presence of Brig Gen Kan'an and the Iranian ambassador. Talks dealt with the topics discussed during yesterday's meetings.

The Iranian minister then left for the Iranian Embassy once again to meet with Hizballah's delegation. It has been learned that last night Dr Velayati met with the Hizballah spiritual leader, Shaykh Husayn Fadlallah, and discussed with him the results of the intensive meetings held yesterday.

In a related development, His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy leader of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, met at his place of residence this morning with the Amal Movement's leader, Nabih Birri, and his delegation in the presence of Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan to study Qabalan's initiative to end fighting.

In another development, a delegation from the Central Command of the Islamic Grouping under Shaykh Fathi Yakan arrived in Damascus today. Ministers Al-Shar' and Birri met at the Syrian Foreign Ministry this morning with Brig Gen Kan'an and Shaykh Qabalan attending. Following the meeting, Nabih Birri said that what happened at dawn today were not clashes between the two sides but an offensive on Kafr Fila and that the Amal Movement contained and repulsed the offensive. He added that regardless of the results, it was a silly attempt to pressure the current talks in Damascus. Birri said the one who gave these orders respects neither Iran nor Syria. Birri added: We are seeking to bring about the success of the talks, and the aim is to end this destructive fighting and preserve the unity of Lebanon.

About 1 hour ago, President Hafiz al-Asad received Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati in the presence of Minister al-Shar' and the Iranian ambassador. The meeting was continuing at the time of this newscast.

Al-Shar', Birri on Results

NC2401140189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] A meeting was today held between Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Minister Nabih Birri at the Syrian Foreign Ministry in Damascus to evaluate the results of the ongoing consultations and meetings to settle the dispute between the Amal Movement and Hizballah. Staff Major General Ghazi Kan'an and Ja'farite Mufti 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan were also present.

Following the meeting, Minister Birri said: What happened in Iqlim al-Tuffah this morning was not mere fighting between the two sides; it was an attack on Kafr Fila town. The Amal Movement has repulsed this attack.

Minister Birri asserted that those who prompt these actions respect neither Syria nor Iran.

Velayati Delivers Message

LD2401151189 Tehran IRNA in English 1442 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Damascus, Jan. 24, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati submitted President 'Ali Khameni'i's message to his Syrian counterpart President Hafiz al-Asad here today.

Later, in a separate meeting with his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar', the second in the past 24 hours, Velayati reviewed the outcome of talks held between himself, Al-Shar' and Amal and Hizballah groups as well as religious personalities of Lebanon.

In related news, Velayati discussed ways for halting the Amal-Hizballah fratricide with lebanese Alim Muhammad Husayn Fadhallah and vice-chairman of the Supreme Shia Assembly Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din here Monday night.

Elsewhere Velayati hailed efforts of a group of al-Biqa' ulema for ending the clashes. Velayati arrived here Sunday.

Afghanistan

5,000 Soviet Troops Leave Western Provinces

BK2201143889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1414 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, Jan 22 (AFP)—Some 5,000 Soviet troops have left Shindand Air Base in western Afghanistan's Farah Province in the past six days, resistance sources said here Sunday.

Tank and truck convoys began pulling out secretly via the Towraghondi border post, some 200 kilometres (120 miles) to the north of the air base, the sources said.

The mujahidin rebels were not attacking the convoys, the sources said, adding that the guerillas may have reached an unwritten truce with the Soviets.

Some 15,000 Soviet soldiers remain at Shindand, while some of the 7,000 troops based in nearby Herat Province have also left for the Soviet Union, the sources said.

Afghan authorities have sent an unspecified number of militiamen from Delaram District, about 200 kilometres (120 miles) south, as replacements, the sources said.

The Soviets are to complete their pullout from Afghanistan by February 15 under last year's Geneva peace accord.

15,000 Troops Leave Kabul

BK2401110589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1052 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 24 (AFP)—A total of 15,000 Soviet troops have left Kabul and convoys of hundreds of Soviet tanks, light armoured cars and trucks are heading north towards the Soviet border, diplomats here said Tuesday.

The diplomats said the Soviet military convoys have left Kabul during the past few days and were moving slowly along the strategic Salang Highway which links Afghanistan with the Soviet Union.

They added that convoys of emergency food and fuel supplies were heading the other way along the snow-covered mountainous route to Kabul to help ease severe shortages in the Afghan capital.

To reach the Soviet border at Termez, the convoys have to pass through the 2.6-kilometre (1.6 mile) Salang tunnel, at an altitude of 3,363 metres (11,100 feet) some 80 kilometres (50 miles) north of Kabul.

The road and tunnel, which have been the target of Afghan resistance attacks in the past, are heavily-protected by Soviet and elite Afghan soldiers.

As Soviet troops leave Kabul, Moscow has been flying flour into the city to help cope with an Afghan resistance "economic blockade," the diplomats said.

They quoted a Soviet general as saying that Moscow would continue to send supplies to Afghanistan after February 15, the day the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan is scheduled to be completed under the Geneva accords.

The diplomats said that 15,000 Soviet soldiers had left Kabul over the past few days and that 15,000 more would leave next week.

Hundreds have beeen flown out on Ilyushin and Antonov transport planes which release magnesium flares every seven seconds to decoy attacks by heat-seeking ground-to-air Stinger missiles, they said.

They estimated that a batallion of Soviet paratroops would remain in the capital until February 15 with Soviet commander General Boris Gromov.

According to the Afghan resistance, 5,000 Soviet soldiers have already left their base at Shindand in northeast Afghanistan.

Afghan forces have been gradually replacing Soviet troops in the military positions and barracks evacuated by the Soviet army, although Kabul's perimeter defenses are still manned by Soviet soldiers, the diplomats said.

Meanwhile, other countries have taken the lead of West Germany and have begun evacuating their nationals from Kabul.

The embassies of Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria have all begun to fly out their nationals and Italy, France, Britain and the United States intend to close their diplomatic missions in the Afghan capital, the diplomats said.

The consulates of Britain and the United States have issued a "last warning" to their nationals to leave Afghanistan, they said.

Food Shortages Worsen as Western Embassies Close

BK2201121489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1141 GMT 22 Jan 89

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 22 (AFP)—Kabul is suffering critical food shortages despite a Soviet airlift which brought urgently needed flour to the capital, with millions of residents struggling to find food in freezing temperatures.

The shortages are largely due to an "economic blockade" imposed by the mujahidin resistance, which is putting the capital under increasing pressure from rocket attacks as the deadline for completion of a Soviet pullout nears, diplomats say.

Western embassies in the capital are likely to close for security reasons, diplomats said Sunday, citing the mujahidin presence within a few kilometers (miles) of the capital and fears of a post-pullout coup by hardliners in the Afghan army opposed to any compromise with the resistance.

Problems within the mujahidin, where the various groups within the resistance are unable to agree on the formation of a special council to nominate a future interim government, are also a cause for concern.

Every morning long queues form outside bakeries as the three million residents of Kabul, some two million of whom are refugees from outlying areas, struggle to find food they can afford amid strict rationing and further shortages, diplomats said Sunday.

There is a permanent queue of hundreds of people outside the massive Soviet-built government bakery in the city centre who are waiting to buy the 200-gramme (seven-ounce) daily bread ration.

Although supply tanks are not yet empty, people are forced to wait for up to three hours for between five and 10 litres (1.3 to 2.6 gallons) of petrol or a few litres (quarts) of kerosene.

The black market is flourishing along the Kabul River, although prices for wood fuel, fruit, salt and sugar have more than doubled in less than a month.

Diplomats say the Kabul authorities' ability to defend the city and maintain law and order will be seriously reduced once the Soviet troops complete their pullout.

All Soviet troops are to be out of Afghanistan by February 15 under the terms of the U.N.-brokered Geneva accords to resolve the Afghan problem.

The British Embassy has strongly recommended that its dependant nationals, which include Canadians, Finns, Swedes, Danes, Irish, Australian and New Zealand nationals, leave Afghanistan, the sources said.

(The West German Foreign Ministry said Sunday in Bonn that its Kabul mission would remain open as long as Bonn maintained diplomatic relations with Afghanistan but that West German personnel had been told to leave the country.

(The embassy was being manned by local staff, a ministry spokesman said.)

In a bid to stop the mujahidin advance, Soviet and Afghan planes have been carrying out daily high altitude bombing raids around the northeastern city of Jalalabad, in Qandahar region in the southeast and north of Kabul.

On the political front, two Afghan resistance leaders have rejected plans by the Pakistan-based mujahidin to form a 480-member council to serve as an interim government for Afghanistan, the Iranian News Agency IRNA said Sunday.

The seven-party resistance alliance based in Peshawar, Pakistan, intends to form the council, or shura, next month with 60 seats reserved for the Iran-based Afghan rebels, according to resistance sources in Islamabad.

Mawlawi Nasrullah Mansur, a leader of the Harkat-e-Enghelab-e Eslami-e which belongs to the mainly Sunni Muslim alliance in Pakistan, said the proposed council was "one-sided," IRNA reported.

The decision to form a shura was "hasty and not comprehensive," according to Muhammad Karim Khalili, a spokesman for the eight-party Iran-based Afghan coalition made up of Shi'ite Muslims.

The Pakistan-based mujahidin are also divided on which groups should be included in the council.

Three moderate groups want to include former Afghan monarch Zaher Shah, a suggestion the four Muslim fundamentalist groups have opposed.

Informed sources said Pakistan would eventually accept a return to Afghanistan by King Zaher Shah, who is living in exile in Rome, while the current government in Kabul has said it wants the former monarch as part of an interim administration.

The United Nations have tried to get the mujahidin to accept a group of "good muslims" in the council, who would indirectly represent the interests of those member of the Afghan population who support the current government, the sources said.

Soviet General on Shortages

LD2301163789 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1543 GMT 23 Jan 89

["Pool" item]

[Text] Islamabad, January 23 (TANJUG)—General Serebrov, an officer of the Soviet high command in Kabul, said today that the Afghan authorities were partly responsible for the critical situation concerning food supplies in Kabul, since they had not ordered necessary quantities of food before the winter.

Serebrov also accused Kabul merchants of deliberately storing food so that prices would go up.

Serebrov said there were enough reserves of food in Kabul, but that the situation was dramatic because of negligence in the distribution system.

He said that Soviet cargo planes, loaded with flour and other supplies, daily arrive in Kabul. This aid to the two-million inhabitants city, on the brink of starvation, will be kept up until the end of this week at least, Serebrov said.

Western and rebel reports of a grave shortage of food and fuel in the Afghan capital, were first indirectly confirmed by some official Afghan papers, which carried reports on the arrival of large convoys of food from the Soviet Union and warnings to the population not to accumulate supplies and thus aggravate the crisis.

Food Supplies Improve

LD2201173089 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Kabul city bakers and sellers of flour and rice pledged at a meeting today with the city mayor that they will do their Islamic and humanitarian duty by providing and distributing goods needed by the public and help to remove the obstacles to the distribution and provision of these goods and to prevent hoarding. [passage omitted]

The people's concern about the distribution of bread and other food has been alleviated following the arrival of sufficient amounts of food in Kabul and strict measures by the appropriate bodies. The prices of several goods have fallen compared with those of last week.

Hoarded Food Found

LD2301184789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1730 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Some 512 tonnes of wheat which were stored in a container in Kabul City were discovered today by personnel of the crime investigation department of the fifth security ward of Sarandoy in Kabul city. The BIA military section reports that Rahmoddin, a hoarder, and inhabitant of Baghlan province, was arrested and the case is under investigation.

The personnel of the crime investigation department of the sixth security ward of Sarandoy in Kabul City have discovered 31 sacks of sugar and 22 sweet [as heard] sacks, which were hidden in Awaz house in Kabul city. According to the BIA military section, Yusof, a hoarder and resident of Khoshal Khan Mina, was arrested and the case is under investigation.

Today urgently needed goods were distributed to 98 families of our compatriots in the region of Deh Afghanan. The BIA military section reports that these goods include foodstuff and fuel that were given to the poor and deserving families by the personnel of the second security ward of Kabul city.

Rebels To Send Supplies

BK2301153089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1501 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 23 (AFP)—Afghan resistance groups based in Pakistan said Monday they had decided to ship food supplies to Kabul and the eastern garrison town of Jalalabad.

The supplies would be shipped as soon as possible to areas near the two cities for free distribution, a resistance communique said.

The decision was taken by the Supreme Council of the seven-party resistance alliance at a special meeting in the Pakistani border city of Peshawar, it said.

The guerrillas' surprise announcement was taken following reports of acute food and fuel shortages in several Afghan cities which the official Soviet news agency TASS blamed on an "economic blockade" by the rebels.

The communique said the resistance leaders who met under the chairmanship of moderate guerrilla leader Sebghatullah Mojadeddi decided to send emergency food supplies and other essential goods to the people of Kabul and Jalalabad "in order to alleviate the problem of our people."

The resistance's decision was apparently taken to counter what it called Soviet propaganda against the rebels, who claim to control the war-torn country's vital roads and highways.

The communique said the emergency supplies would be sent to areas near Kabul and Jalalabad and distributed to people free of charge. The rebels are reportedly five to ten kilometers (three to six miles) from the two cities.

TASS said the people in Afghanistan were dying of hunger and cold caused by food and fuel shortages. Moscow, airlifting supplies over the weekend, said some 3,500 tons of flour for bread and items for daily use would be shipped in scores of transport planes.

The rebels are putting both the capital Kabul and Jalalabad under increasing pressure as the February 15 deadline for the pullout of some 50,000 Soviet troops from Afghanistan approaches, diplomats here said.

Travellers just back from Afghanistan report long lines outside bakeries and gas stations in Kabul, where some three million people live, two-thirds of whom are displaced refugees.

They said the black market was flourishing and prices for wood fuel, fruit, vegetable, salt and sugar had more than doubled since last month.

In a statement issued Monday, the resistance's field commander for Kabul Province, Abdul Haq, warned that the Kabul regime was planning to create a "chaotic situation" as the Soviet troops continued to pullout under the U.N.- mediated Geneva Accords of last April.

He appealed to Kabul residents to cooperate with the mujahidin "in foiling the regime plot of creating bloodshed and famine" in the capital.

Abdul Haq said in the absence of road links, prices have skyrocketed in Kabul and the Soviets have not been able to airlift enough food to adequately feed the city's population.

The resistance commander has promised to allow relief supplies into the city as well as any international aid.

The offer follows a proposal from the northern region's commander, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, that if the Soviets stop supplying arms to the Kabul regime, the mujahidin will open the vital Salang Highway and allow food to be transported to the capital.

Rebels Preparing 'Major Offensive' of Jalalabad

BK2201023689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] Reports say that the mujahidin have intensified the siege of Jalalabad, headquarters of Nangarhar Province. The mujahidin say that they are preparing for a major offensive on the city after gaining control over positions 5 km away from the city. The mujahidin intensified their operations in Qandahar Province, where fierce fighting is continuing to control Towr Kowtal region. They continued successful operations in Balkh, Konduz, Parvan, Kabol, Paktia and Herat Provinces, inflicting heavy losses in men and material on the Kabul forces.

Mujahidin Reportedly 'Barely 2 Kms' From Kabul

LD2301160789 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Mashhad, Jan. 23, IRNA—The threat of famine the result of almost a decade of occupation, has spread panic among Kabul residents although the Soviet Union has rushed 3,000 tons of foodstuff to the Afghan capital, revealed a senior Afghan mujahidin official Monday.

Hojatoleslam Javid of the Harakat-e Eslami (Islamic Movement) told IRNA "Kabul is tightly besieged by mujahidin who are now closing in on the capital from all directions."

The situation in Kabul is so unpredictable that foreign diplomats and even Afghan Government officials are fleeing the country by air while more local people are joining the mujahidin, he disclosed.

The mujahidin are stationed barely two kms from Kabul and the capital's military airport is on the verge of collapse, said Hoj. Javid, adding emphatically "the fall of Kabul is beyond doubt."

Lack of confidence in the Kabul regime's survival is so certain that even government officials and those close to the Russian installed regime are queuing up at foreign embassies including that of India for visas, he said.

Member of the movement's central council, Hojatoleslam Modarresi who was also present, cautioned "as part of its scheming to maintain control the Soviet Union might partition northern Afghanistan because of its rich natural resources."

Soviet troops have withdrawn from 26 Afghan provinces and are gathering in northern Afghanistan, he pointed.

But he felt confident that the mujahidin's ability to carry out military operations inside Soviet territory, would make it easy for them to pressure the Soviets to pull out from northern Afghanistan as well.

Mujahidin Down 2 Kabul Planes in Konduz

BK2301062789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin shot down two aircraft of the Kabul administration in Konduz City. Fierce fighting is going on around Konduz City and the mujahidin are increasing their pressure on the Kabul regime's forces. They ambushed a military convoy of the Kabul regime, killing a number of soldiers. The mujahidin have also attacked Pul-i-Khumri in Baghlan province, capturing a post and some soldiers of the Kabul administration.

106 'Extremists' Killed During Armed Clashes

LD2201171789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] The press office of the Presidency reports that as a result of mopping up operations by the Armed Forces and during armed clashes among extremists in the provinces of Nangarhar, Herat, Jowzjan, Zabol, Qandahar, and Faryab during the last 24 hours, 106 armed extremists were killed, 20 were wounded, and a large number of their arms and ammunition were destroyed or were seized by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan.

According to a report from Nangarhar Province, as a result of mopping up operations carried out by the Armed Forces in the region of Lalma, five rockets and a large amount of [word indistinct] were seized by the Armed Forces.

As a result of recent combat operations by the Armed Forces in Konduz Province, 62 people were killed, including Abdolah and Gol Aziz, ringleaders from the Mahaz-e Meli extremists group, and Alah Gol from the so-called Islamic group.

During mopping up operations by our brave Armed Forces in the regions of Mandz Jakan Kalay, Pol-e Rigin, and Gazergah, the heroic Armed Forces seized five Kalashnikovs, four guns [not further specified], and various types of weapons including four boxes of DshK shells, 39 [word indistinct] of ZK-1, 21 boxes of Kalashnikov ammunition, 15 boxes of ammunition for [word indistinct] gun, and a large amount of hand grenades. The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan also seized a large quantity of goods stolen from the people by the extremists.

During the last 24 hours, armed extremists fired 125 rounds of various shells, including long-range weapons and rockets, at the residential areas of Khowst city and its surroundings, as a result of which a woman and a girl were badly injured.

During the last 24 hours as a result of clashes between the extremists groups and our heroic Armed Forces in the vicinity of Tarin Kowt city, Muhammad Kaber, Mula Malang, and another four members of the enemy were killed.

As a result of recent moppingup operations by units and companies of the II Military Corps in the surroundings of Daman district, eight extremists were killed and 59 mortars, 11 missiles, and 900 rounds of Kalashnikov ammunition were seized by our Armed Forces. Nine enemy trenches and five hideouts were destroyed.

As a result of the launch of 40 rockets on the vicinity of Qandahar city by extremists, two children, one girl [as heard], and a Sarandoy soldier were martyred in the sixth ward of Qandahar city. An officer and two soldiers were wounded. Four houses were destroyed.

The armed extremists fired 38 heavy weapons rounds at the city of Meymaneh on 20 January, as a result of which two officers and three soldiers were wounded.

As a result of armed clashes between extremists which took place in Qarah Bagh, in Seyyed Karam, and Zormaly, Paktia Province, and Kushk district, Herat Province, 18 persons were killed from both hostile sides and 14 were wounded. As a result of fire by the artillery forces in the vicinity of Herat Province, three oppositionists were eliminated.

'Extremists' Defeated in Konduz Province

LD2301063589 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 22, BAKHTAR—Extremists in their previous attacks on Konduz Province committed murder, arson and plunder, says Colonel Abdullah, an officer in the detachments of the armed forces of the Republic of Afghanistan in an interview with our military correspondent in that province.

By firing 2500 ground to ground rockets over the province, the extremists for the second time tried to (?compensate) their humiliating defeat and capture the province again. But, it was in vain, he added.

Seven civilians, including women and children, and 270 extremists were killed during the attack, he said.

"The enemies of the people are not able to detract [as received] us from the road chosen for the cessation of war and bloodshed in the country.

The detachments of the armed forces and residents of Konduz Province are maintaining complete peace and tranquility there", Abdullah noted.

Protest to Pakistan Over Airspace Violation

LD2301183889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned this afternoon to the foreign ministry where the acting chief of the First Political Section conveyed to him a strong protest by the Republic of Afghanistan concerning the violation of Afghan airspace by a Pakistani Air Force jet. This aircraft entered Afghan airspace on the night of 17 January via Spin Tanay, Spin Buldak district, and returned to Pakistan after a reconnaissance flight. This aggression by the Pakistani Air Force is a flagrant violation of all accepted international norms. The Pakistani Government has been requested to avoid a repetition of such actions, which serve only to aggravate the situation.

It was also noted that Pakistan's recent accusations to the effect that the Afghan Armed Forces fired five artillery rounds in the region of Lakka Tigga, which that country's foreign ministry protested in a note to the Afghan charge d'affaires in Islamabad, are deemed totally unfounded. It was said that this lie was intended for propaganda purposes and to conceal Pakistan's flagrant violations of the provisions of the Geneva Accords.

Mujahidin Finalize Members of Consultative Group

BK2101153689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] The supreme council of the seven parties alliance of the Afghan mujahidin has given the final shape to the list of members of the consultative group—Majlis-e Shura. The council at its meeting in Peshawar also discussed the matters related to giving representation to the Afghan mujahidin stationed in Iran in the proposed shura. The AFGHAN PRESS AGENCY says this consultative group will include 60 members from the groups stationed in Iran.

Set 1 Feb Date for Election

BK2201161289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] The Afghan mujahidin alliance has begun preparations for the election of 350 members of the Afghan Council. According to the Afghan news agency, the election ballot papers have already been printed.

According to the schedule, the elections for an interim parliament will be held on 1 February both within and outside Afghanistan. In addition to working as an interim government, the elected parliament will also draft a new constitution and make other laws.

Rebels Postpone Meeting

OW2301003389 Tokyo KYODO in English 2304 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 23 KYODO—A meeting of consultative group representing Pakistan and Iran-based Afghan rebel groups scheduled for February 1 has been delayed for at least one week, rebel sources in Peshawar said.

A spokesman of the seven party alliance said a delegation of the Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahidin (IUAM) will shortly be leaving for Iran to discuss the composition of the proposed consultative group which is viewed as a first step toward setting up of a broad-based government after Soviet troops withdraw from Afghanistan.

The IUAM has proposed a 480-member consultative group giving a representation of 60 each to the seven Pakistan-based guerrilla groups and 60 only to the alliance of the eight Iran-based groups.

While the Iranian resistance wanted greater representation in the proposed consultative group, the Soviet Union has said a meeting of such a group without representation of the Afghan Communist Party would be one-sided and thus unacceptable to them and the government in Kabul.

India

DMK Wins Tamil Nadu Assembly Election

BK2301035489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Excerpts] In Tamil Nadu, the DMK, led by Mr M. Karunanidhi, has been voted back into power with a thumping majority after a lapse of 13 years. The party and its allies have secured a two-thirds majority in the state assembly elections. Out of the 221 results declared so far, the Front has bagged 160 seats.

The DMK on its own has got 140 seats. The Congress-I Front secured 26 seats; while the AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazagham] Jayalalitha Front 32. The AIADMK Janaki Ramachandran faction managed only one seat with the speaker of the state assembly, Mr P.H. Pandian, winning the Cheranmahadevi seat. Two seats have gone in favor of independents.

The DMK leader, Mr Karunanidhi, has won the harbor seat by a big margin of about 32,000 votes. This is his eighth success in a row. Miss Jayalalitha has been declared elected from the Bodinaickanoor constituency. She defeated her nearest DMK rival by a margin of more than 28,000 votes. However, the leader of the other AIADMK group, Mrs Janaki Ramachandran, has lost from Andipatti constituency. The DMK candidate, Mr P. Asayan, won the seat by a margin of more than 4,000 votes. The leader of Tamizhaga Munnetra Munnani, Mr Sivaji Ganesan, also lost from Tiruvaiyaru constituency. [passage omitted]

The partners of the DMK Front have got 20 seats. Out of this, Janata bagged 4, CPI-M 13, Muslim League-Latif 2, and Forward Block 1.

Polling was held in 232 constituencies in the state on Saturday [21 January]. Election was countermanded in two constituencies following the death of two independent candidates.

The newly-elected members of the DMK are meeting in Madras on Wednesday [25 January] to elect the leader of the legislative party. According to the party sources, Mr Karunanidhi is likely to be elected to the post.

Speaking to Doordarshan, Mr Karunanidhi said the historic decision taken by the people of Tamil Nadu to vote for his party imposes heavy responsibilities on DMK. He said his party will fight for the rights of the people and create more employment opportunities.

Counting of votes in the other two states of Mizoram and Nagaland, which also went to the polls along with Tamil Nadu, began this morning. The first results are expected by this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Here is the latest tally of the Tamil Nadu assembly elections.

Total seats	234
Elections held	232
Results declared	223
DMK Front	162
Congress-I Front	26
AIADMK-Jayalalitha Front	32
AIADMK-Janaki Front	1
Independents	2

Gandhi Sends Congratulations

BK2401042889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] The new DMK ministry will be sworn-in in Tamil Nadu on Friday [27 January]. According to party sources, Mr Karunanidhi will be formally elected leader of the DMK legislature party at its meeting in Madras tomorrow.

Meanwhile, all the results have come in from Tamil Nadu. The DMK front has secured 170, Congress-I front 27, AIADMK-JL [Jayalalitha] Front 32, AIADMK-JR [Janaki Ramachandran] 1 seat, and independents 2.

The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has congratulated the DMK president, Mr M. Karunanidhi, on his party's victory in the Tamil Nadu assembly elections. In a message to Mr Karunanidhi, the prime minister said the elections were held in keeping with the country's best traditions and democratic processes. Mr Gandhi also conveyed his best wishes and continuing support to the people of Tamil Nadu in their endeavors for progress, prosperity, and social justice.

Congress-I Wins Nagaland, Mizoram Elections

BK2301035689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The Congress-I has been elected to power in both Mizoram and Nagaland.

In the 60-member Nagaland assembly, the Congress-I won 31 seats out of the 52 results declared so far. The Nagaland People's Council has got 21.

In Mizoram, the Congress-I by itself has secured an absolute majority getting 22 seats out of 39 results declared so far. Its alliance partner, the MNF-D [Mizo National Front-D] has got 2. The Mizo National Front has so far secured 14 seats. One has gone in favor of the People's Conference. The former chief minister and the MNF president, Mr Lal Denga, has been elected from Aizawl South-2 constituency. [passage omitted].

The newly elected members of the Congress-I legislature parties of Nagaland and Mizoram are meeting in the state capitals today to elect their new leaders. In Mizoram, the new ministry is likely to be sworn in this afternoon itself, while in Nagaland, it is expected to assume office tomorrow.

Opposition Parties Want General Elections

BK2301155289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Reacting to the election results in Tamil Nadu, the two Communist Parties have described them as an indication of a loss of the people's confidence in the ruling party. The Janata Dal has demanded immediate Lok Sabha polls in the wake of the Tamil Nadu election results.

Delhi Notes Attack on World Bank Team, Reaction

BK2301161989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] The entire opposition in the Kerala Assembly today staged a walkout in protest against the rejection of an adjournment motion regarding the attack on a World Bank team allegedly by a group of Naxalites [left extremists] at Cochin yesterday.

Mr K.M. Mani of the Kerala Congress and others alleged that about 40 Naxalites stormed into the conference room of the Greater Cochin Development Authority and abused the World Bank officials. The chief minister, Mr E.K. Nayanar, said his government has condemned the incident and expressed regret. He said a case has been registered against the culprits.

Not satisfied with the government's reply, the opposition members walked out.

Vietnam's Nguyen Van Linh Arrives for Talks

BK2301100089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0943 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 23 (AFP)—Vietnamese Communist Party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh arrived here Monday on a week-long visit during which he is to hold talks with Indian leaders on Cambodia.

Mr. Linh flew in at an air force station here and was later ceremonially received in the forecourt of the Presidential Palace by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his wife Sonia.

The Communist Party leader, who heads a 12-member delegation, inspected a guard of honour by the three wings of the Armed Forces and was later introduced by Mr. Gandhi to his cabinet colleagues and diplomats.

"This is yet another opportunity for both countries to consolidate their friendship," Mr. Linh told reporters in a brief statement, before being driven away with Mr. Gandhi in a bullet-proof black limousine.

India is one of the few non-aligned countries to recognise the Hanoi-backed Cambodian regime.

Mr. Linh will later Monday call on President Ramaswamy Venkataraman and Vice-President Shankar Dayal Sharma and hold talks with Mr. Gandhi, which are to continue aboard an Indian Air Force aircraft that will fly them to Bombay Tuesday and bring them back Wednesday.

At Bombay, he will witness a cultural extravaganza, visit an oil drilling platform and tour the Bhaba Atomic Research Centre (BARC).

Mr. Linh's three rounds of talks with Mr. Gandhi are to focus on efforts to end Hanoi's military presence and install a four-party transitional coalition government in Cambodia, Indian officials said.

India has played a behind-the-scenes role in efforts under way to end the 10-year-old Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia.

Mr. Linh's trip comes amid a flurry of diplomatic moves toward a Cambodian settlement following improved ties between China and the Soviet Union, which arms Vietnam.

Mr. Linh will also be the chief guest at the annual Republic Day parade here on January 26.

His visit follows a trip to Paris this month by India's Minister of State for External Affairs Kanwar Natwar Singh for talks with key Cambodian resistance figure Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Phnom Penh's Premier Hun Sen came here in November.

Mr. Linh will also meet External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and leaders of Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) and the two main Indian Communist Parties before leaving for Hanoi on January 29.

Earlier, India and Vietnam signed an agreement here extending Hanoi a 6.6-million-dollar credit. It will be utilised for financing export of capital goods and equipment, officials said.

It was signed by Mr. Natwar Singh and Dau Nigoc Xuan, chairman of the State Planning Commission of Vietnam.

The two countries also signed a cultural exchange programme for 1989-90.

Delhi Reports Arrival

BK2301125189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] The general secretary of the Vietnamese Communist Party, Nguyen Van Linh, was given a ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] on his arrival in New Delhi this afternoon. He was received by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. Mr Linh later called on the president and the vice president. He will have three round of talks with the prime minister during his week-long visit. He will also be the chief guest at the Republic Day parade [on 26 January].

Nguyen Van Linh Meets Gandhi

BK2401055389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, Mr Nguyen Van Linh, held wide-ranging discussions in New Delhi yesterday. The talks were held without aides for about 2 and ½ hours, and full delegations of the two countries led by the two leaders met for another hour. Both the countries expressed their common desire to strengthen the excellent political relations between them through greater collaboration in commerce, science and technology, and other areas.

Mr Nguyen Van Linh, who is on a week's visit to India, will be chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations.

The prime minister discussed with the Vietnamese leader regional matters and referred to his recent visit to China and its positive results. Mr Gandhi also spoke about his Pakistan visit and said a good beginning has been made in normalization of relations between India and Pakistan. The prime minister apprised the Vietnamese side about the situation in Sri Lanka, also.

Iran

Cooperation With U.S. on Hostages Urged

LD2301170889 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 23, IRNA—The Islamic Republic should use Washington's expressed willingness to work with Tehran for the freedom of American hostages as an opportunity to gain the release of its own, a daily paper said Monday.

ETTELA'AT commented that Iran should remember the lessons it learnt in foreign relations during the war and not to repeat the "costly" mistakes in peace time.

"War has its rules and peace has its rules too," it said. "The period of peace cannot be spent with the same characteristics and policies as in the period of war."

ETTELA'AT, the country's second largest daily, referred to the new U.S. President's inaugural speech on Friday in which he said Washington was willing to cooperate to win the release of Americans held against their will in foreign nations.

"When (U.S. President George) Bush explicitly calls for cooperation with Iran to gain the freedom of American hostages why shouldn't we...use this chance so that Iranian hostages may also go free," it said.

There are believed to be 8 American and 4 Iranian hostages held in Lebanon.

ETTELA'AT quoted a White House spokesman as saying that Bush in fact meant that Iran or any other country wishing to be friendly with the U.S. would in return be treated as a friend by Washington.

"We must notice that we are in a very sensitive and vital juncture," it added in its most prestigious commentary column on page 2.

"In this juncture safeguarding national and revolutionary interests and bolstering the strength of the Islamic state are certainly more important than some slogans."

ETTELA'AT said Iran had gained a "very important and costly" experience during the war when all countries directly or indirectly stood against it while Iraq was the aggressor.

It quoted the French statesman and journalist Georges Clemenceau (1841-1929) that peace could also be won or lost.

"We must do something to win in peace as well," it said.

Iraq Releases 131 Disabled POW's 23 Jan

LD2301151689 Tehran IRNA in English 1459 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text], Jan. 23, IRNA—After a two month delay, the Iraqi regime pressured by international forums, released 131 more disabled Iranian POWs today.

The POWs were repatriated to Iran by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and according to ICRC officials another 124 POWs will arrive in Tehran Tuesday [24 January].

One month after the Islamic Republic's official protest to ICRC against the Iraqi regime's breaching of the understanding reached at Geneva for exchange of sick and disabled POWs, Baghdad pressed by world bodies, has relented and set free a group of disabled Iranian prisoners of war.

According to the Geneva protocol 1,158 Iraqi POWs and 411 Iranian POWs were to be freed in 10 batches from November 20. But in three stages the Iraqi regime released only 56 POWs including a group of border civilians kidnapped in the initial days of its aggression, and then suddenly without any reasons halted the POW swap.

Further, by its refusal to release to the ICRC the complete list of disabled Iranian POWs, the Iraqi regime continues to procrastinate the implementation of U.N. Resolution 598.

Iran for its part once again reiterated its humanitarian gesture for release of disabled and sick POWs, and stressed that as per Resolution 598, Iraqi forces should withdraw to international borders before all other POWs are exchanged and a stable peace is restored.

Islamic Iran has released 800 Iraqi POWs unilaterally.

Statement Rejects Peshawar Alliance Proposals

LD2301183289 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] The eight-party Islamic Coalition Council of Afghanistan and the Islamic Revolution Movement of Afghanistan, led by (Mawlawi Mansur Da'iyah); the Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahidin, led by (Qazi Muhammad Amir); and the Islamic Revolution Movement of Afghanistan, affiliated to the Islamic Alliance of Afghanistan's Mujahidin, led by (Mawlawi Mu'azzen) have issued a joint statement announcing their opposition to the 480-man council proposed by the eight-party Alliance of the Afghan Mujahidin.

The statement says that the struggle and jihad of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan is now in the victory phase, and it is necessary for the leaders and responsible officials of the jihad to lead their nation along a proper path by safeguarding unity and by mobilizing all the struggling forces. The statement stresses the need for the unconditional withdrawal of aggressive forces from Afghanistan and the continuation of the armed jihad until the collapse of the Kabul regime and the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan.

The statement adds: The 480-man council proposed by the seven-party alliance in Peshawar lacks the necessary universality, does not represent everyone, and will not be acceptable to all mujahidin. In conclusion the statement emphasizes the need to set up a powerful Islamic council to lead the jihad while representing all struggling forces of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan.

Bazargan Gives First Interview in 7 Years

LD2401061789 Tehran IRNA in English 0614 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 24, IRNA—The Freedom Movement Party led by former prime minister Mehdi Bazargan intends to start country-wide activities as soon as it received the green light from the Interior Ministry.

In his first interview in more than seven years vith the Iranian press Bazargan also said that the party would name a candidate for the August presidential election if the conditions were "favorable".

"We will organize the party at all levels throughout the country so that we can present our plans to the people ...who will give their verdict," he told the English-language TEHRAN TIMES.

"If that verdict is in our favor we will naturally have the right to form a government."

Bazargan was appointed by Imam Khomeyni as prime minister of the provisional government that took power after the victory of the Islamic revolution on 22 February 1979.

He and his Freedom Movement colleagues who joined the cabinet insisted on a gradual transformation of the social and economic order but his policy was widely opposed by popular revolutionary forces whose growing pressure finally forced his resignation in November 1979.

The party then participated in the first Majlis elections winning six seats. It did not take part in elections for the second and third Majlis claiming lack of basic political freedoms.

Bazargan, 81, said the Freedom Movement's headquarters in Tehran had been sealed on the orders of the prosecutor general seven months ago and eight of its leading members arrested. Five of them have subsequently been released.

"We do not have a place to start our activities," he said. "Lack of printing facilities and absence of a newspaper for the promotion of the movement's ideology are additional hurdles in the way of starting full-fledged political activities."

The party's newspaper, MIZAN (SCALE), was closed down in 1981.

Nevertheless he welcomed the implementation of the law on political parties and said his party was completing forms to be submitted to the Interior Ministry which would refer it to a commission deciding whether to grant permission for political activity.

Since 31 December 28 political, social and cultural groups have applied for official permits.

"As it was done earlier our party will study the social and political conditions in the country and if they are favourable we will field our candidates for the Presidency," he said in the interview a Persian translation of which was also published by the daily ABRAR.

President 'Ali Khamene'i's two-terms in office ends in August and the law forbids him from standing again. In the last elections Bazargan failed to make the list of candidates as he was disqualified by the Council of Guardians.

On the Freedom Movement's efforts to convince officials to end the war with Iraq after its forces were pushed back from most Iranian territory, Bazargan repeated an earlier claim that the Imam wanted to end the war after the liberation of Khorramshahr in 24 May 1982.

At the time he recalled a meeting with Majlis speaker Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani during which Bazargan's colleague and former foreign minister Dr Ibrahim Yazdi was also present.

"Mr Rafsanjani said we want to stop the war at this stage because the Imam also has the same opinion and the Iraqi regime also wants peace," he said.

Speaker Rafsanjani was told that Iran had world sympathy when its forces were fighting off Iraqi forces who had occupied thousands of kilometers of Iranian territory.

But, "if we enter their land the situation will become adverse," Bazargan said at the meeting.

"In all our pleas Rafsanjani told us that we should not worry as he said 'we are also thinking in the same way'."

A ceasefire came into force on 20 August 1988.

TEHRAN TIMES said it contacted speaker Rafsanjani for comment and was told by his office that he recalled the meeting but could not remember what was discussed.

Bazargan's claim that the Imam was opposed to the continuation of the war was first expressed in one of the Freedom Movement leader's several open letters to the leader of the Islamic Republic some three years ago.

Asked about his contacts with Ayatollah Hoseyn-'Ali Montazeri, the country's designated future leader, Bazargan said his last meeting with him took place six months ago and various domestic issues were discussed.

He said he was ready to exchange views with the officials. "I'm not hostile to anybody and I keep political matters of the country away from personal matters."

Pakistan

Baluchistan Acting Chief Minister Resigns

BK2401032589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Acting chief minister of Baluchistan, retired Justice Mir Khuda Bux Marri, has tendered his resignation after the Baluchistan high court verdict on the restoration of the Baluchistan Assembly. However, the provincial governor has asked him to discharge his duties as the acting chief minister until the appointment of a new chief minister.

A spokesman of the Baluchistan government clarified in Quetta last night that the provincial government has no intention of filing an appeal in the Supreme Court against the verdict of the Baluchistan high court on the restoration of the provincial assembly.

Petition on Baluchistan Assembly Ruling Withdrawn

BK2401083189 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] The advocate general of Baluchistan this morning withdrew the application filed by him yesterday seeking to go into appeal in the Supreme Court on the suspension of the judgment of Baluchistan High Court regarding restoration of the Baluchistan Assembly. The withdrawal follows decision of the Baluchistan government not to appeal against the judgment of the High Court.

Baluchistan Assembly Session To Convene 1 Feb
BK2401113189 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Speaker of the Baluchistan Assembly Sardar Mohammad Khan Barozai has summoned the assembly to meet in Quetta on the 1st of next month. The session has been summoned under Article 54, Clause 3, read with Article 127 of the Constitution, in response to the requisition by 12 members of the provincial assembly.

Spokesman on 'Nonattack' Accord on Nuclear Sites
BK2401033089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Pakistan will totally adhere to the accord signed with India last month on nonattack of each other's nuclear installations. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad that Pakistan will fulfill all the conditions of the accord. Now, only the ratification of this accord remains and the accord will come into effect on day the documents of ratification are signed.

Asked whether India has provided information on its atomic installations to Pakistan as per the accord, the spokesman said each country should give the other details of its nuclear installations.

Foreign Minister Views Relations With India
BK2301162289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The Senate continued its discussion for the 5th day today on the country's political situation after November's general elections and the formation of the new government. Four members took part in the discussion today.

Mahmud Ahmad Minto of Pakistan Muslim League criticized the government's performance in the domestic as well as foreign affairs. He challenged the [Pakistan] People's Party role in the restoration of democracy and said that the real credit for this goes to Pakistan Muslim League. He regretted the existing confrontation between the Punjab and the Center and called for an end to the conflicting statements from both sides.

Tariq Chaudhary, an independent member, underlined the need for democratic institutions and recalled the role played by the Senate in providing leadership at a critical juncture in the country's history. He welcomed the Indian prime minister's visit to Pakistan and said the two countries need peace so that they can utilize their resources for the welfare of their people.

Dr Basharat Elahi of the Pakistan Muslim League expressed the view that the agreements signed with India last month will not help in bringing the two countries closer.

He opposed, as he put it, the growing influence of the United States in the country and said that the increase in Washington's influence has resulted from U.S. interests in the region. Hussain Bux Bangazai, also of the Pakistan Muslim League, said the credit for the restoration of democracy and lifting of martial law 3 and ½ years ago goes to his party. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan assured the Senate that Pakistan was keeping a vigilant eye on developments that affected the security of the country and was taking every step within its means to strengthen national defense. He gave this assurance while responding to an adjournment motion sought to be moved by Kazi Abdul Latif about the reported Indian troop movement along Kashmir and Rajasthan borders.

The foreign minister said every country reserves the right to determine its defense requirements and that Pakistan cannot ignore the effects and consequences of the large-scale military preparations going on in its neighborhood. He said the objective of peace and stability can be achieved only through the process of normalization of bilateral relations and not through an arms race between India and Pakistan. For ending the arms race, we had proposed in the past that negotiations be held for determining the ratio and the number of troops through mutual agreement. We have not received India's response to that proposal so far.

The prime ministers of the two countries had also discussed the issue at the end of last month and we intend to raise this issue again at the forthcoming meeting of defense secretaries. The present government attaches great importance to establishing good-neighborly relations with India, the foreign minister added.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said the government is not aware of any extraordinary troop movements or the increase in the number of forces along the borders. The mover of the motion did not press his motion. [passage omitted]

Spokesman on Afghan Committee Formation Dispute
BK2301114989 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Pakistan is in contact with the Iranian Government on the latest situation in Afghanistan. This was stated by a Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today. He was commenting on a reported difference over the share of Afghan mujahidin leaders in the consultative committee being formed by Afghan leaders based in Pakistan for a future interim government in Afghanistan. The spokesman said the final formation of the consultative committee is the sole responsibility of the Afghans and Pakistan on its part wishes that the issue is soon resolved amicably.

'Another 2,000' Afghan Refugees Flee Fighting

BK2401115689 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Another 2,000 Afghans crossed over to Pakistan over the last couple of months because of increased fighting inside Afghanistan. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the exact figure of the new refugees was being checked. He said Pakistan was trying to promote a solution to the Afghan problem for the safe return of Afghan refugees to their homes.

In reply to a question, the spokesman said there have been instances of Soviet aircraft taking off from inside the Soviet Union and bombing mujahidin positions. Pakistan is examining the legal position in this respect under the Geneva accord. He said they in Pakistan feel that the Soviet Union should not interfere in internal affairs of Afghans after their withdrawal and such bombing would not be (?repeated).

Sri Lanka

Tamils Welcome DMK Election in Tamil Nadu

BK2301142189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1357 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Colombo, Jan 23 (AFP) - Sri Lanka's main Tamil parties Monday welcomed the election of an opposition Tamil party in a neighbouring southern Indian state and called for closer cooperation with the new regional administration.

The Dravida Munnetra Kazagham (DMK) party, which has been critical of the presence of Indian troops in Sri Lanka's Tamil-populated northern and eastern regions, won a comfortable majority in Saturday's elections in the Tamil Nadu State Assembly.

Sri Lanka's moderate Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) said the DMK victory led by scriptwriter-turned-politician Muthuvel Karunanidhi was "something we welcome and we expected."

TULF General Secretary Appapillai Amirthalingam said Mr. Karunanidhi "had always adopted a sympathetic and balanced attitude" towards Sri Lanka's minority Tamils.

Mr. Amirthalingam said he expected Mr. Karunanidhi to support the implementation of a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign by devolving more autonomy to provinces.

The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, which controls the northeastern provincial council, said the "DMK victory is our victory" and sent a message congratulating Mr. Karunanidhi.

"I hope relations between the Tamil people of Sri Lanka and Tamil Nadu will be strengthened and there will be closer cooperation between us," northeastern Chief Minister Varadharaja Perumal said in a mesasage to the new leader.

Before the 1987 peace accord, Sri Lankan Tamil separatist groups maintained offices in Madras, the capital of Tamil Nadu, and the Colombo government accused India of training rebels and providing them safe haven in Tamil Nadu.

There was no formal reaction from the Sri Lankan Government to Mr. Karunanidhi's election.

However, S. Thondaman, a senior Tamil minister of Indian origin in the Colombo cabinet, said he did not expect any changes in the implementation of the peace accord.

Mr. Karunanidhi "will have enough problems of his own. They will not be concerned about what is happening here unless there is a spillover to Tamil Nadu," Mr. Thondaman said.

Sinhalese Rebels Attack Police Patrols, Rivals

BK2401112389 Hong Kong AFP in English 1105 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Colombo, Jan 24 (AFP)—Sinhalese rebels attacked police patrols Tuesday and killed at least six people in separate incidents amid continued violence in southern Sri Lanka, officials here said.

Gunmen, believed to be from the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front), ambushed a jeep in Middeniya village Tuesday, killing a policeman and wounding three others, officials said.

They said another patrol was similarly ambushed in Bulathsinhala, but police beat off the attack without suffering casualties.

In separate incidents late Monday, three UNP supporters were shot dead in Ingiriya, a home guardsman was killed in Panadura and a government clerk was shot and killed in Matara, the officials said.

Officials said the militant JVP group, which draws much of its support from among the island's majority Sinhalese community living in the south, have stepped up attacks ahead of next month's parliamentary elections.

The JVP is opposed to the February 15 general election and has been held responsible for the murder of at least five candidates since the polls were announced last month.

In another development tuesday, the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) has asked for an international committee to monitor the polls, the pro-SLFP English language ISLAND newspaper said.

The newspaper quoted an SLFP spokesman as saying that over 100 of their supporters and four of their candidates had been killed so far.

"Our candidates have still not been issued with weapons as announced by the Defence Ministry," SLFP spokesman Anuruddha Ratwatte said, adding that they would take "sterner action" about attacks on their members.

Sri Lankan candidates are entitled to six armed body guards, a telephone and a military revolver for their protection.

The JVP was allied to the SLFP last year but broke away shortly before the presidential elections held here on December 19.

In 1971, the JVP led a bloody insurrection which was put down by the then SLFP government with the loss of at least 10,000 lives.